Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-013
Tuesday
21 January 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-013 21 January 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

No Word From Palestinians Yet on Moscow Talks *[WAKH]* 3
'Urayqat—Talks Amid Construction 'Inconceivable' *[London MBC-TV]* 3
Common Arab Stance on Israeli Settlements Urged *[Sanaa VOP]* 3
Syrian Delegation Leader Confers With Djerejian *[Damascus Radio]* 4

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Says PLO, Arab States To Meet 24 Jan *[Algiers Voice of Palestine]* 4
Morocco Denies Talks Planned *[MAP]* 4
Arab League Asks UN To Mediate on Lockerbie *[MENA]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation To Withdraw If Israeli Loans Approved 5
Sha'th: Palestinians 'Regained' Initiative *[WAKH]* 5
Loan Guarantees Would 'Torpedo' Talks *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 20 Jan]* 5
PLO 'Prepared' To Take Part in Peace Talks 5
Amman Envoy on Conditions *[Algiers VOP]* 5
'Arafat on PLO 'Right' To Participate *[Tunis Radio]* 6
'Urayqat—U.S. Rejects PLO Role *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 21 Jan]* 6
Executive Committee Discusses Talks *[AL-RA'Y 19 Jan]* 6
Executive Committee Member Meets Lebanese Official *[Algiers VOP]* 6
Peace Negotiators, 'Abd-Rabbuh Arrive in Amman *[Algiers VOP]* 6
PLO To State Position After Meetings *[Algiers TV]* 7
Commentary on 'Bitter Truth' Facing Palestinians *[Algiers VOP]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Higher State Council Goes Into 'Permanent Session' *[Algiers TV]* 9
Issues Decree on Preservation of Order *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Government Responds to Foreign Criticism 9
Brahimi on Disputes With Iran, France *[London MBC TV]* 9
Government Recalls Ambassador to France *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Brahimi Rules Out Breaking Iranian Ties *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Government Recalls Ambassador to Iran *[Algiers TV]* 11
Ambassador Departs Tehran 20 Jan *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Reports of Clashes, Security Force Actions 11
Police Surround Mosque, Arrest Five *[Paris Radio]* 11
Hachani Says 500 FIS Supporters Arrested *[Rabat Radio]* 11
Police Detain Weapons Theft Suspects *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Bomb Attack Against Gendarmerie Center *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Bomb Attack Kills Soldier *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Bomb Attack on Algiers Police Post *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Gendarme Killed; Youths Attack Roadblocks *[AFP]* 12

FIS Warns Against Falling Into State's 'Trap' *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Front Criticizes State's 'Evil Intentions' *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Hachani Presents Political Demands *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Hachani Warns State Against Dissolving FIS *[Paris TV]* 13
Military Court To Consider FIS Leaders' Release *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Appeals Chamber Rejects Request *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Political Parties Comment on Higher State Council 14
Hamas Urges Return To 'Legitimacy' *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Safeguard Council Criticizes 'Trickery' *[APS]* 14
Popular Forces Front Expresses Support *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Parties Praise Council *[Algiers TV]* 14
FLN Central Committee Rejects Mehri Statements *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Mehri Clarifies Stand Toward Council *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Mehri Affirms Position on Developments *[Algiers Radio]* 15
FLN Members Continue Mehri Opposition *[Algiers TV]* 15
'Wave of Protest' Against Mehri *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Ghozali Comments on Bendjedid Resignation *[Brussels Radio]* 16

Egypt

Mubarak Promises Assistance to New Algerian Leader *[MENA]* 16
Mubarak—Syria's al-Asad To Visit Cairo 'Soon' *[MENA]* 16
Paper Urges Russia, U.S. To 'Rescue' Peace Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Labor Party Urges New Constitution, Elections *[AL-SHA'B 14 Jan]* 17

Libya

Tripoli Mediating Algeria-Iran Rift *[JANA]* 17
Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Algeria's Boudiaf *[Tripoli Television]* 18
Memorandum on Terrorism Sent to UN's Ghali *[JANA]* 18
Copies Distributed to Envoys *[Tripoli Radio]* 19
Bureau Denies al-Bishari To Attend UN Session *[JANA]* 19

Morocco

King Congratulates Algerian Leader on Appointment *[Rabat Radio]* 19

Tunisia

Ben Ali Sends Congratulations to Algeria's Boudiaf *[Tunis Radio]* 20

IRAQ

Saddam Appoints New Head of Security Department *[Tehran Radio]* 21
Baghdad 'Completely' Surrounded by Defense Troops *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 21
Army Chief of Staff Cables Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Military State Minister Cables Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
Activities Marking Gulf War Anniversary Continue *[INA]* 22
Saddam Orders Envoys To Improve Ties With World *[INA]* 22
UN Envoy Criticizes Oil Export Resolution *[INA]* 23
Paper Denies Claims on Nuclear Weapons *[INA]* 23

ISRAEL

U.S. Professor Killed By 'Masked Individual' *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Shamir—'No Reason' To Fear Autonomy 24
Will 'Not Harm' Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Comments on Peace, Loan Guarantees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
'No Power' Can Stop Settlements *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Peres Urges Halting Peace Talks Until Election *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Peres Explains 'Mistake' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25

Rabin Rejects Freezing Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Ze'evi, Ne'eman Resign To Delay Autonomy 'Train' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Ne'eman Prefers Election to Government Collapse *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
MK on Etinger Anti-Bush Document 'Scandal' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Foreign Ministry—'No Knowledge' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Interpretation of Document 'Incorrect' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
1st 'Official' Data on Construction in Territories *[HA'ARETZ 21 Jan]* 27
100 Mobile Homes Brought To West Bank Settlement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Judges Reject Deportation Appeals of 7 Gazans *[HA'ARETZ 21 Jan]* 28
Defense Dealings With France 'Insignificant' *[DAVAR 21 Jan]* 29

JORDAN

Prime Minister Confers With PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh *[Amman Radio]* 30
'Abd-Rabbuh Urges Coordination *[Amman TV]* 30
Minister on Syria, Peace Conference 'Opportunity' *[Amman Radio]* 30
Government Reportedly Bans Iraqi Press *[KUNA]* 30

LEBANON

Russia Asks Buwayz To Reconsider Moscow Talks *[VOL]* 31
Buwayz—Lebanon 'Will Not' Participate *[VOL]* 31
Buwayz To Demand Talks Postponement *[RFL]* 31
Karami Departs for Damascus Consultations *[VOL]* 32
Personnel, Peace Talks Discussed *[RFL]* 32
Karami Returns, Outlines Talks *[VOL* 32
Birri Explains Demand for Cabinet Bylaws *[VOL]* 32
Islamic Resistance on 'Violent Clash' in South 32
'Severe' Enemy Casualties *[VOM]* 32
2 SLA Troops Killed in Blast *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
SLA Tightens Blockade on 5 Shiite Villages *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Rshaf Status 'Extremely Tense' *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Bombs Explode Near SLA, Israeli Patrols *[VOL]* 33
Barbed Wire Erected Between SLA, UNIFIL *[AFP]* 33
Hizballah: Prisoner Swap 'No Longer Possible' *[VOL]* 34
Hizballah's al-Tufayli on Algeria, Peace Talks *[VOM]* 34
PLO Factions Agree To Reconsider Strategy *[RFL]* 34
Fadlallah—Islam Does Not Call For Violence *[VOM]* 34

SYRIA

Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa Visits 35
Visit Previewed *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 35
Musa Brings Mubarak Message *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Al-Shar', Musa Meet *[SANA]* 35
Al-Asad: No Moscow Talks *[AFP]* 35
Al-Asad, Musa Meet; Musa Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Minister Praises Relations, Urges Peace Talks *[MENA]* 36
Vice President Khaddam Leaves for Iran *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Iraqi Opposition Party Urges Toppling Saddam *[SANA]* 37

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government Accelerating Switch to Market Economy *[AFP]* 38

Bangladesh

Influx of Burmese Muslim Refugees Exceeds 60,000 *[Dhaka International]* 38
700 'Suffocated' in Concentration Camps *[AFP]* 38

India

UK's Hurd Arrives on Official Visit 39
Received by Faleiro *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Meets Venkataraman *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Supports Punjab Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Agreement on Terrorism Reached *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Yeltsin To Visit; New Draft Treaty Finalized *[Delhi Radio]* 40
PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Major Sikh Parties To Boycott Punjab Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Two Missiles Enter Production Stage *[AFP]* 41
Commentary Welcomes U.S. Military Cooperation *[Delhi Radio]* 41

Iran

UN Envoy Denies State Financed Hostage Releases *[IRNA]* 42
Habibi Denies Iran Aided 'Some Groups' in Algeria *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Yazdi on 'Sensitive Situation' for Algerian Muslims *[Tehran TV]* 42
Velayati Departs for Ukraine on Official Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Syria's Khaddam Arrives for Talks *[IRNA]* 43
Meets With Vice President Habibi *[Damascus Radio]* 43

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif Reviews Results of Visit to France 43
Views India, Afghanistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Welcomes Concern Over Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
On Nuclear Issue, Ties, Arms *[Islamabad Radio]* 44

Algeria

The Higher State Council went into "permanent session," Algiers television reported. A subsequent decree said the state will use all means to "apply the law strictly and fully," Algiers radio announced. Following recent remarks by French politicians, the country's envoy to Paris was recalled for consultations, the radio disclosed. The ambassador to Tehran was also recalled, Algiers television reported, while the foreign minister, in an interview with the London paper AL-HAYAH and reported by Algiers radio, ruled out a break in ties with Iran, but asked that Iran retract recent criticism of the country. Noting that the Iranian envoy would leave Algiers soon, the television said that "Algerian authorities intend to abandon their representation of Iranian interests in Washington." An Islamic Salvation Front statement reported by Algiers radio listed the movement's demands on the government.

Iran

The permanent envoy to the United Nations denied a "fabricated" WASHINGTON POST report that Tehran had financed the confinement of U.S. hostages in Lebanon, IRNA reported, citing the envoy's remarks in a U.S. television interview that Israel was behind the spread of the report. A government spokesman denied that the country had aided "some groups" in Algeria, terming charges to that effect as "sensationalism and lies," Tehran radio reported. The foreign minister departed on an official visit to Ukraine, the radio added.

Arab-Israeli Talks, Palestinian Affairs

"The Palestinians will withdraw from the peace process if the U.S. Administration approves the loan guarantees to Israel," according to the PLO's Nabil Sha'th, whose remarks to the Bahraini paper AL-AYYAM were reported by WAKH. Palestinian spokesperson 'Ashrawi, following a meeting with a State Department official, said no decision on whether to attend the Moscow talks has been made, WAKH reported. In Lebanon, meanwhile, the foreign minister said his country "will not take part in the negotiations," Voice of Lebanon reported. Yasir 'Arafat said the PLO and foreign ministers of the Arab states invited to the Moscow multilaterals will confer in Morroco on 24 January, Algiers Voice of Palestine announced; a Moroccan Foreign Ministry statement reported by MAP denied that such a meeting would take place.

Israel

Two ministers resigned from the cabinet on 19 January, Jerusalem radio reported; one said he resigned to delay the move toward autonomy. The prime minister, meanwhile, said "there is no reason to fear autonomy, which will not harm Jewish settlements, construction, or security," the radio continued. In similar remarks to Tel Aviv radio, Shamir said "no one, no power in the world" will stop the settlement drive. A Knesset member disclosed a document said to be written by an Israeli diplomat in Washington detailing steps the U.S. Jewish community could take against President Bush regarding the loan guarantees issue, Jerusalem radio reported; terming the document an "unprecedented scandal," the Knesset member urged the diplomat's recall. The Foreign Ministry has "no knowledge" of the document, according to the radio, which later reported the diplomat's remarks on the affair. Denying that he called for the immediate cessation of the peace talks until national elections are held, opposition leader Peres urged that the election campaign be kept as short as possible, the radio added. Masked men killed a professor who had U.S. citizenship, Jerusalem television reported.

Iraq

Citizens continued their activities to mark the beginning of last year's war, INA reported, while Saddam received messages on the occasion from the Army chief of staff and the minister of state

for military affairs, both of which were broadcast by Baghdad radio. Saddam reorganized the Army's security department, naming a relative as chief, Tehran radio claimed.

Libya

The country is mediating conflicts between Algeria and Iran and between Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, JANA announced. Mu'ammar al-Qaddhafi spoke on the telephone with the Algerian Higher State Council leader, Tripoli television disclosed. The external liaison secretary sent a letter to the UN secretary general asking for a General Assembly session aimed at defining "international terrorism" and ways to end it, according to JANA, which also transmitted a Foreign Liaison Bureau denial of reports that the Foreign Liaison secretary was planning to travel to New York for a Security Council session.

Arab Africa

The text of congratulatory messages from the Egyptian president, the Moroccan king, and the Tunisian president to the head of the Algerian Higher State Council were reported by MENA, and Rabat and Tunis radios respectively.

Syria

Damascus media reported on the visit by the Egyptian foreign minister. President al-Asad is to visit Egypt "soon," MENA disclosed.

Jordan

The government has reportedly decided to ban the Iraqi press from the country, according to "diplomatic sources" cited by KUNA; the sources added that the move was taken at the personal request of King Husayn.

Lebanon

Hizballah said that an exchange of Israeli soldiers for detainees held in Israel "is no longer possible," Voice of Lebanon reported.

Arab-Israeli Talks

No Word From Palestinians Yet on Moscow Talks

JN1801073192 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Tunis, 17 Jan (WAKH)—A meeting was held in Washington today [17 January] between Dan Kurtzer, a U.S. State Department official, and a Palestinian delegation composed of Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sari Nusaybah, Rashid al-Khalidi, and Anis al-Qasim. They met to discuss progress in the bilateral talks between the Arab and Israeli delegations, as well as the multilateral talks scheduled to be held in Moscow on 28 and 29 January.

The PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY-WAFA reported that the U.S. official extended an invitation to the Palestinians to attend the multilateral talks in accordance with the same conditions to which they had joined the Madrid conference, or at least they were invited to attend the opening ceremony with the door being open for further discussion at a later stage. The U.S. official said that he believes the Americans are determined to hold these negotiations regardless of what parties are absent.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, said that the Palestinians have not yet given an answer with regard to their participation in the Moscow talks. She pointed out that the Palestinians are waiting for clarifications and stressed that the Palestinian leadership is the only party responsible for responding to Palestinian participation in this conference.

The agency cites Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian team for coordination with the other Arab parties, as saying that the Arab parties participating in the peace talks in Washington agree among themselves on principles based on consideration of international legitimacy.

He stressed that the Arab parties agree on rejecting separate bilateral agreements and Israel's attempts to deal separately with any of the delegations. He called for expanding the current coordination to include all Arab states, emphasizing that the current peace process will determine the shape of the region. He also asserted the need to agree on a common Arab strategy during the multilateral talks in Moscow.

'Urayqat—Talks Amid Construction 'Inconceivable'

NC1701202192 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian peace talks delegation, by MBC correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Urayqat] To start negotiations on the transition period without halting the settlements is inconceivable. The settlement, as you know, determines the nature of not only the transitional period, but also of the final status. Through building settlements, the Israelis are trying to determine the ultimate shape of the occupied territories as if they are racing against the peace process to establish the de facto situation and thereby end the negotiations by continuing the settlements.

[Fahmi] Did the Palestinian delegation raise stopping the settlement building yesterday?

['Urayqat] They [the Israeli delegation] responded to that with a familiar arrogance when they emphasized they have the right to settlement and that the land is theirs, as if they are living in another world and do not know that the Arab side or the Palestinian side has come to these negotiations relying on the principle of land for peace. They did the same thing with the Syrian brothers. The Syrians tried to talk about Resolution 242 and the principle of land for peace, but the Israeli delegation refused to talk about these matters. The Israeli vision of this peace process seems to depend on considerations far from the land-for-peace principle.

The fact that the Israelis abandoned their intransigence and their rejection of an independent Palestinian track of negotiations during the first round has nothing to do with peace or with holding serious talks about peace, because they want to use this for public relations and U.S. public opinion to ensure they get their required loans, especially since we are only a few days away from President Bush's extended deadline.

[Fahmi] Does the Israeli delegation your are negotiating with have the authority to make important decisions?

['Urayqat] This delegation has no government-endorsed plan, and thus it has instructions to procrastinate and blackmail for the sake of formalities and public relations. This Israeli delegation has no prepared plan to put forth to the Palestinian delegation as a negotiable proposal because the Israeli Government has not yet discussed this.

Common Arab Stance on Israeli Settlements Urged

JN1701170992 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the negotiations has asked all the Arab parties participating in the Washington peace talks to adopt a common Arab stand vis-a-vis the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian body in charge of coordinating with the Arab sides, stated that the Palestinian delegation demanded Arab support on this issue before any topic listed on the talks agenda is discussed. 'Urayqat maintained that the settlement issue must be viewed as an Arab issue that concerns all Arabs.

These remarks were made in an expanded coordination meeting held by the Arab delegations participating in the negotiations the night before last. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by chief Palestinian delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat. For the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid Abu Salih. For Jordan, it was attended by Dr.

'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian side tasked with coordination.

During the meeting, which lasted several hours, the conferees held an extensive discussion of the progress of negotiations with the Israeli delegations. The three chief delegates submitted reports on the progress of the negotiations. The Arab delegations affirmed their commitment to international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Syrian Delegation Leader Confers With Djerejian

JN1701142092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Washington—Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Edward Djerejian met in Washington yesterday with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the Middle East peace talks. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the course of the third round of the second phase of the peace conference, which was concluded yesterday.

Mr. Djerejian reiterated the United States' commitment to advancing the peace process to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat Says PLO, Arab States To Meet 24 Jan

LD2001184992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The brother president, leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has said that many Arab states and the PLO will convene on the sideline of the Islamic Jerusalem Committee meeting next Friday [24 January] in Morocco to determine their stands vis-a-vis the multilateral talks. In addition to the PLO, the foreign ministers of 17 Arab states which have been invited to the multinational talks will participate in the coordination meeting.

The brother president, leader Abu 'Ammar, said that a PLO delegation led by brother Mahmud 'Abbas has left for Moscow to hold consultations with Russian officials regarding the organization of the multilateral talks. He emphasized the need for the PLO's direct participation in the negotiation in view of it being directly concerned, because the negotiations have to deal with the problem of refugees, which will be the final stage of the resolution of the Middle East issue.

He emphasized that the United States confirmed in a letter of assurance addressed to Palestinians that the PLO must participate in the final stage of the peace talks, in addition to representatives from East Jerusalem.

As for the results of the bilateral talks, brother Abu 'Ammar said he believes that the peace process has not made progress due to Israeli intransigence and its insistence on defying international legitimacy.

Morocco Denies Talks Planned

LD2001164592 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Rabat, 20 Jan (MAP)—An official at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has denied a report cited by several news agencies to the effect that consultations are set to take place on Friday in Marrakesh among some Arab parties concerning their participation in Middle East peace negotiations.

The same source made it clear, in answer to a question by MAP, that the ministry has no knowledge of any initiative of this kind.

Arab League Asks UN To Mediate on Lockerbie

NC1601203492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1927 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League Council decided at its meeting this evening to ask Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to contact UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali and request his mediation in order to reach a peaceful solution to the current crisis in Libya's relations with the United States, Britain, and France.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said after the permanent delegates' meeting that he will send a cable to the UN secretary general today asking him to mediate in the situation. He added that the League Council called on the UN Security Council to solve this dispute through negotiations and legal means according to Article 33, Clause 6 of the UN Charter, which calls for the peaceful settlement of problems among member nations.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League has renewed its call to form a joint Arab League-UN committee to handle this issue. He urged all the concerned parties to extend all possible aid to facilitate this committee's task.

The Arab League secretary general added that the League Council unanimously has adopted a resolution that emphasizes the need for action to reveal the truth about the bombing of the U.S. and French planes and to pursue legal means to achieve this.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid explained that the league again has affirmed its support for Libya and praised its wish to reveal the facts and its sincere cooperation with the ongoing investigations into the incidents.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the league has instructed the secretary general to implement its resolution, and he declared that the Arab League Council is in a state of permanent session.

The Arab League secretary general said that the United States will be contacted about this issue.

He declared that Libya's reasonable and sober position on this matter and the Arab reaction give us hope that a peaceful solution to the crisis will be found.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that this meeting was held at Libya's request and that it was a resumption of the Arab League Council's meeting on 5 December 1991.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation To Withdraw If Israeli Loans Approved

Sha'th: Palestinians 'Regained' Initiative

JN1801100092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Manama, 18 Jan (WAKH)—Nabil Sha'th, adviser to the Palestinian president and head of the team of advisers to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has stated that the fate of the peace process will be determined within the next seven days with the end of the period set for deferring the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel.

In statements to the Bahraini daily AL-AYYAM, Sha'th said that the Palestinians have won the latest round of bilateral talks. They have regained the initiative and were able to push Israel into a defensive position when they exposed its true intentions.

Sha'th stressed that the Palestinians will withdraw from the peace process if the U.S. Administration approves the loan guarantees to Israel. He added that the Israelis will have to make concessions at the next round of bilateral talks. Otherwise, he said, they will not lose the negotiations but the loan guarantees, which constitute a matter of life and death for them. [passage omitted]

Asked why he believes Israel will have to make concessions, Sha'th said: The period set for the deferral of the most important issue—the loan guarantees—will end in six days. This is a matter of life and death for Israel. The Israelis understand well that without convincing the United States that they are making real progress in the negotiations, they will not get the loan guarantees. [passage omitted]

Sha'th added: I think that we have been able to weaken the U.S. enthusiasm to give Israel the loan guarantees. We cannot not take sole responsibility for this; it is mainly due to current economic conditions in the United States.

Sha'th said: The fate of the peace process will be determined in six days with the end of the period set for the deferral of the Israeli request for loan guarantees. A battle about these guarantees is coming up, and the Israelis will find themselves in a difficult position. We will wait and see what the U.S. position will be and that position will determine our own stand on the process of negotiations. If the U.S. Administration approves the loan guarantees to Israel, then we will not remain in these negotiations. Hence, the loan guarantees are the principal condition for the success of these negotiations.

He added: If the U.S. Administration adopts a position that agrees with its promises and the requirements for successful negotiations, then it will not give these guarantees to Israel and we will have a chance to succeed. However, if the Americans give Israel the guarantees on a silver plate, then this means that they do not want to see a successful end to the peace process.

Asked about the influence which the Israeli and U.S. elections will have on the peace process, Sha'th stated: The Israelis will find themselves in a difficult position since there are Israeli and U.S. elections coming up. For the first time, they will find themselves in a position unfamiliar to them. They used to ask for, and get, whatever they wanted from the candidates. For the first time in the Israeli elections, the main issue will be the Palestinians. Therefore, I believe that Israel must make concessions. Otherwise, they will not lose the negotiations but, rather, they will lose the loan guarantees.

Sha'th ruled out the possibility that the Israeli elections will result in a more intransigent government. He said that Shamir will try to continue with the negotiations without making any concessions in order to win the Left and the Right to his side. However, we will be lying in wait for him because there are no negotiations without achievements, Sha'th added.

Loan Guarantees Would 'Torpedo' Talks

JN2001135092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jan 92 pp 1, 14

[Excerpt] Capitals, news agencies—Mr. Samih Kan'an, member of the Palestinian negotiating team, has stressed that the PLO, being the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is the only party that can decide whether or not to attend and participate in the multilateral talks. So far, he said, no decision on participation has been made.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B in Amman, Kan'an agreed with what Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has said—namely, that the U.S. Administration's approval of loan guarantees to Israel to help it implement its settlement plans will torpedo the peace efforts. [passage omitted citing news agencies]

PLO 'Prepared' To Take Part in Peace Talks

Amman Envoy on Conditions

LD2001230092 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The ambassador of Palestine in Amman, brother al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim, yesterday said that the PLO was prepared to participate in the multilateral talks, providing that the Palestinian delegation included Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories.

The ambassador added that Jordan expressed its support for that position during talks between Prime Minister Bin Shakir and member of the [PLO] Executive Committee 'Abd Rabbuh.

'Arafat on PLO 'Right' To Participate

LD2101102592 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat announced that on 24 January the Arab sides will discuss the multilateral conference, which is scheduled to convene in Moscow on 28 January in view of the importance of this conference from Arab and Palestinian viewpoint. President 'Arafat said yesterday in Tunis during a reception of the ambassadors accredited to the state of Palestine that it is our right to be represented at this conference—unlike that which took place in Madrid—and this is in accordance with the letter of guarantees sent to the Palestinian side by the U.S. Administration, which said that when discussing the final stages of the settlement, the PLO and the population of Jerusalem must take part.

'Urayqat—U.S. Rejects PLO Role

JN2101083492 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jan 92 pp 1, 14

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has stated that the U.S. Administration responded negatively to the Palestinian delegation's request that the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, participate in the multilateral conference scheduled to be held in Moscow at the end of this month.

In a statement to SAWT-AL-SHA'B, 'Urayqat added: Participation in the opening session, by Palestinians from Jerusalem or abroad, was categorically rejected. However, Palestinians living abroad may be able to participate in the meetings that will be held by the committees following the first day of the conference.

'Urayqat, who arrived in Amman with [Palestinian delegation spokeswoman] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi and the rest of the Palestinian delegation from Washington last night, said: During the Palestinian delegation's contacts with the U.S. Administration, we emphasized that representation at the multilateral conference is completely different from representation at the bilateral talks, but the U.S. Administration clearly indicated that the Madrid formula cannot be changed. He added: The Palestinian political leadership—the PLO—will make a decision based on available facts. However, signs do not indicate that we shall attend.

The U.S. reply to the Palestinian delegation, which remained in Washington to discuss this particular issue, indicates that the Palestinians will most likely not participate in the multilateral talks. This may jeopardize the course of the negotiations.

Executive Committee Discusses Talks

JN1901115992 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jan 92 pp 1, 21

[By Awdah Awdah]

[Excerpt] Informed Palestinian sources have said that the PLO Executive Committee held two protracted meetings in the Tunisian capital to assess the bilateral negotiations held recently in Washington.

The sources told AL-RA'Y that the two meetings discussed the Palestinian participation in the multilateral negotiations which will be held in Moscow on 28 and 29 January.

The sources added that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, will arrive in Amman today to hold talks with ranking Jordanian officials.

The sources said that Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO's Pan-Arab Department will arrive in Moscow today to discuss the multilateral negotiations. [passage omitted]

Executive Committee Member Meets Lebanese Official

LD1801202992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Brother Shawfiq Al-Hut, member of the PLO Executive Council, and PLO representative in Lebanon, has met with Husayn al- Husayni, Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament. Brother Al-Hut described the meeting that took place yesterday as positive, and helpful for consolidating trust between the PLO and the Lebanese government. Bilateral relations and living conditions of the Palestinian people in Lebanon were also discussed.

Al-Hut said he delivered a message from the Palestinian leadership to Mr. Al-Husayni in connection with current conditions.

Peace Negotiators, 'Abd-Rabbuh Arrive in Amman

LD1901183992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Several members of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks arrived in Amman yesterday from Washington. Ilyas Frayj, a member of the delegation, said Steering Committee Chairman Faysal al-Husayni had received an invitation to attend the meeting to prepare for the multilateral talks, scheduled for 28 January in Moscow. He added that the remaining members of the Palestinian delegation are expected to arrive in Amman next week, along with the Jordanian delegation.

It was learned from a responsible Palestinian source that brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, also arrived in Amman yesterday for talks with Jordanian officials. The source said these discussions will center on evaluating the results of the

third round of bilateral talks in addition to Palestinian-Jordanian coordination before the preparatory meeting for the multilateral talks.

It was learned from a Palestinian source that another PLO Executive Committee member, namely brother Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, will leave for Moscow this Sunday on the first visit by a PLO official to the Russian capital since the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

PLO To State Position After Meetings

LD1901195392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The third round of multilateral negotiations are going to be held in Moscow on 28 January. Two positions are already being prepared: a Palestinian stance on the upcoming Arab meetings, and an Israeli position concerning measures to be taken in light of the Shamir government crisis. Reporter Mana'a has said:

[Begin Mana'a recording] Only 10 days before the resumption of the third round of multilateral negotiations to discuss regional issues, and the PLO has not yet announced its participation in the 28 January [word indistinct] in Moscow. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, head of state of Palestine, has said: Our position will be defined after the meetings in Amman and Marrakech. He also affirmed that Palestinian participation will this time be carried out by a delegation other than the one that participated in Madrid and Washington, a delegation that will be led by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], who is currently in Moscow. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Commentary on 'Bitter Truth' Facing Palestinians

LD2001092792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the storm of disagreement between Shamir and Bush about the time of the Washington talks has come to an end with Shamir imposing his point of view. If we delve deeper into the issue, this imposition is almost beyond belief, because the United States is the superpower, and it is, according to the outside appearance of the matter, endeavoring to achieve stability in a region which lies within the sphere of its influence, and that is the Middle East region.

Thus, how could Shamir impose his view, and is the Jewish lobby the true decisionmaker in the American Administration? If we say that the American Administration is the maker of its decision, and is the master of the cards and the game, then what happened raises additional question marks about the truth of American intentions.

But if we say that the Jewish lobby is capable of imposing its view, then the matter goes beyond raising question marks about the truth of American intentions. In both cases, we must face the bitter truth.

Truly, these complexities which arise are merely part of a well- studied plan from which Shamir is trying to lead the process to definite ends without genuine American objections. It seems that the important thing for the United States is not to arrive at definite results for the settlement, but to arrive through the whole process at the conclusion of imposing its domination and influence [words indistinct]. It has delineated two lines, the first, is defining the maximum limit of the Zionist [word indistinct] security requirements, and the second, is the [word indistinct], and that is securing the lowest level of rights for the Palestinians. Whenever there is conflict or complexity, the price is paid from the account of the Arab and Palestine side, and priority is for the benefit of the Zionist security.

As for Shamir, he is playing the game, the game of pressing the fait accompli, pressing force, and pressing the fall of the military Arab option, to arrive at a definite end, and that is the acceptance of self-rule as a final solution, i.e. legalizing occupation and agreeing to the liquidation of all rights without negotiations, rather with the desire of the participants from the Arab and Palestinian side.

Therefore, Shamir will continue to create one obstacle after another for two reasons; the first is to gain time, and the second is to gain concessions from the Arab side. The game of the compromise solution is ready, and it is a program in which the United States helps him. Because, after the time problem, he created the problem of the independent Palestinian delegation to insist on a formula which keeps this delegation within the framework of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian umbrella, not because he is keen on Jordanian-Palestinian unity, but because he is keen on diminishing the weight of the Palestinian paper, and consequently weakening the prospects of [words indistinct].

After the problem of time and procedures, an obstacle will be created about the essence, and the matter will always remain in this whirlwind day after day. Probably, one of the obstacles which always arises is the settlement issues. Because alongside this obstacle in the lobby of the American State Department, the settlement offensive comes around Jerusalem, including the campaign of confiscating some houses in Silwan. It is a campaign with two parts, the settlement part, and the annexation of Jerusalem.

Shamir wants to connect the settlement issue with reducing the Palestinian individual, and the Palestinian individual which he accepts is self-rule [as heard], wants to make it a final solution. This is the ring which Shamir moves around, in which Arab division helps him, and submission to the United States' wishes by imposing the program which conforms entirely with Shamir's desire.

Arab attempts at coordination have failed, and the Arabs had previously failed in reducing the pressure of submission, and feeling it, which made them enter the course

and drop their program, and that made them accept the conditions in the forefront of which is: Arab cards must not strengthen one another.

Shamir is trying to cripple the bilateral essential issues for the sake of arriving at the the multilateral formula without conceding anything significant from the practical point of view, to be able after that to bind any step on the bilateral level with two steps on the multilateral one. This is a matter that will deprive not only the Palestinian people, but also the Arab states and their peoples, from the last elements of security [words indistinct]. It is a matter that carries within its folds more dangers, more violation of the sanctities, and robbing of rights, in a clearer, more general and universal manner so that it affects the Arab nation, and the borders of the Muslim nation. The issue becomes here, instead of creating a Palestinian fence round the nation, making the nation a whirlwind, a whirlwind of absorption of this fence, and opening the door wide to all elements of Zionist hegemony.

The Arabs are in need more than at any time in the past to review the account, strengthen the cards, coordinate and cooperate so that Arab rights do not get lost or usurped, becoming a fait accompli and an irrevocable decree.

Algeria

Higher State Council Goes Into 'Permanent Session'

LD1801204492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] At the beginning of today's headlines we report today's meeting of the Higher State Council [HSC] at the presidency of the Republic under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf and in the presence of its members, Khaled Nezzar, Ali Kafi, Tfjani Haddam, and Ali Haroun.

The HSC first recalled the foundations of its action, which are the safeguarding of national unity, the promotion of Islam as a basic element of the Algerian identity, and the achievement of genuine democracy. So that the HSC can carry out its functions, attend to the continuity of the state, and provide the necessary conditions for the normal running of institutions and the constitutional system, it has made a general assessment of the situation in the country and the state's institutions, and it emphasized the need to safeguard public order and consolidate it in a way that guarantees the security of the nation and gives reassurance to the citizens.

The HSC entrusted the government with preparing substantive proposals as soon as possible to give a quick push forward to the national economy. It has decided to start the process of forming the national consultative council. It also decided in the end to remain in permanent session to face current issues.

Issues Decree on Preservation of Order

LD2001183392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1700 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] I now move on to a communique of the Higher State Council:

In view of the serious incidents during which members of the national security forces have been the victim of fatal attacks, notably at Guemar on 29 November, and at Sidi Moussa on the night of 18-19 January 1992, the Higher State Council, which is responsible for the preservation of public order and the tranquillity of citizens throughout national territory, solemnly reminds any individuals and organizations which are the perpetrators, instigators, or accomplices in such actions that it will use all means at the state's disposal to apply the law strictly and fully.

The Higher State Council has examined the general conditions for the establishment of the national consultative council. It examined a certain number of plans aimed at defining the criteria permitting the representation of the different trends of thinking and the different components of civil society to be determined. It issued a reminder that the national consultative council is a body placed under the auspices of the Higher State Council in order to assist it in the examination of political, economic, social, and cultural matters. The council will serve as a permanent link between the Higher State Council and national public opinion.

Government Responds to Foreign Criticism

Brahimi on Disputes With Iran, France

NC1901090092 London MBC Television in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi by MBC correspondent Fatimah Bin-Huhu; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [MBC announcer Nicole Tannuri] In an interview with MBC, Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi has dealt with the developments in Algeria and the implications of the recent decision to recall Algeria's ambassadors to Paris and Tehran:

[Brahimi] I believe that Algerian diplomacy is based on constants which brother Mohamed Boudiaf helped establish during the Algerian revolution and which have not changed much since then. Therefore, I do not believe he will find himself alien to the policies that the Algerian Foreign Ministry is pursuing. In view of this, I do not expect major changes in our foreign policy.

[Bin-Huhu] Mr. Minister, the most important political movements in Algeria—the Islamic Salvation Front, the National Liberation Front, and the Socialist Forces Front—regard the Higher State Council as unconstitutional and illegitimate when the new authority is acting to stabilize Algerian politics. Does this affect the government's activities and consequently its foreign policy?

[Brahimi] I believe they are saying that it is unconstitutional; they are not saying that it is illegitimate. Naturally, as far as the Islamic Front is concerned, nothing is legitimate and nothing is acceptable to God or mankind before it establishes its own state. The new situation is a result of an event, namely the resignation of former President brother Chadli Bendjedid. The Constitutional Council stated that we have a constitutional crisis, and efforts are being made to end it and return to the normal situation constitutionally, legally, and democratically; and efforts now are being made to enable the country to return to normal constitutional practices. That was the text of the statement issued by the Constitutional Council, the security council, by brother President Mohamed Boudiaf, and by the new body's meeting today.

As for our foreign relations, I believe the Higher Council, led by brother Mohamed Boudiaf, is exercising the powers of the president and also supervising foreign relations. I do not think this creates any particular or major problems in our foreign relations.

[Bin-Huhu] Mr. Minister, many believed that if the Islamic Salvation Front had come to power, it would have obstructed the Arab Maghreb process and affected relations with some Arab states. What is the new situation with the (?new authority)?

[Brahimi] Once again, I say that if the Islamic Front had assumed power, it would have had its own policy. I believe that it made statements about some foreign and domestic policies. As for the existing situation, I know that brother Mohamed Boudiaf is one of the strugglers who believes in the need to establish an Arab Maghreb quickly—a strong and energetic Maghreb. The brothers who are with him also share the same policy, and consequently, I believe that Algeria's efforts regarding its relations with its Arab Maghreb neighbors and the efforts being made to build the Arab Maghreb will not change much. Indeed, we hope that these efforts will become more energetic.

[Bin-Huhu] The Foreign Ministry recently made a statement in which it deplored some foreign countries' positions on the Algerian political situation. What is your comment?

[Brahimi] Well, I think this is natural. A number of European and some Islamic officials made improper statements. It was necessary to point out to those who required it that such practices are unacceptable, because in today's world no one should lecture anyone. This was the meaning behind the statement and this is what appeared in the press. In addition, we and our colleagues in the Foreign Ministry contacted a number of ambassadors here, and through our embassies abroad also contacted a number of officials in various capitals to point out that we will not much tolerate such practices.

[Bin-Huhu] Is this why you summoned the Algerian ambassadors in Paris and Tehran and asked the Iranian ambassador to leave tomorrow?

[Brahimi] Yes. In fact, the two countries which manifested these excesses, perhaps more than the others, were France and Iran. We talked to them before [the Foreign Ministry statement] and afterward. We asked our ambassador in Paris to contact Foreign Ministry officials this morning, and he did so. He then come to consult with us on what has happened. Meanwhile, in Iran's case, a large number of Iranian officials, at all levels, made inappropriate statements. The French commented on the situation in Algeria in an unacceptable manner, but a considerable number of Iranian officials used language that was absolutely unbefitting. Thus, our reaction was to summon our ambassador and to ask, or rather suggest, to their ambassador that he return to Tehran so all will realize that such practices are unacceptable.

In fact, Algeria never has failed Iran during our relationship. Algeria handled Iran's interests in the United States, and this cost us a great deal of hardship and effort. At one time, our embassy was working for Iran perhaps more than for Algeria. So in fact, the brothers in Iran should have some consideration. I believe that we, like anyone, cannot tolerate or accept being given lessons, in any field whatsoever, and that the Algerian revolution cannot be lectured by any other revolution. We are confident that we are doing what is necessitated by the interests of our people and homeland, and also, I believe, by the interests of the groupings we belong to, be they the Maghreb, Arab, or Islamic. We certainly believe that what we are doing in this country is in their interests and that no one should tell us what to do or give us lessons in any of these areas.

[Bin-Huhu] Your Excellency, finally, a word to MBC.

[Brahimi] Well, it is a new corporation for which we wish good luck and in which we have some friends to whom we send special greetings. Through this corporation, we greet our friends and brothers in the great Arab homeland from Algeria. Once again I will say, as I believe I did in my telephone interview before, that we appreciate the great interest shown by our brothers all over the Arab world. God willing, we will reassure them that Algeria is all right and that it will go back to playing the role it always has played.

[Bin-Huhu] Thank you.

Government Recalls Ambassador to France

LD1801192792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] There have been many reactions [to events in Algeria] from French politicians. Concerning this issue, Algerian Ambassador to Paris Smail Hamdani requested an audience at the French Foreign Ministry today. He was received by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Scheer.

Mr. Hamdani was recalled to Algiers for consultations. He will arrive in the next hours. An Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that this follows statements by various French politicians about the political situation in Algeria.

Brahimi Rules Out Breaking Iranian Ties

LD2001184592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The Algerian foreign minister has ruled out for the time being any breaking off of diplomatic relations with Tehran.

Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, questioned by the Arabic daily paper AL-HAYAH, which is published in particular in London, Paris, Cairo, and Beirut, nevertheless demands that Iran withdraw the criticisms made against Algeria in order for relations between the two countries to return to normal. In the same interview, Mr. Brahimi says that Algeria has decided to recall its ambassador to Tehran and is asking the Iranian representative to return to his country because the attitudes and statements of the Iranians concerning the situation in Algeria have reached an unacceptable point.

The Algerian ambassador to Tehran is due to arrive back in Algiers today after being recalled for consultation following the virulent press campaign unleashed against Algeria and its institutions by the Iranian press. This recall was noted by Iranian television, which is itself continuing its attacks. In one of its programs yesterday

Iranian television expressed the view that the recall of the Algerian ambassador is aimed at, I quote, overshadowing the events under way in Algeria.

Government Recalls Ambassador to Iran

LD1801193292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] An official source announced today that the Algerian Government has decided to recall its ambassador to Tehran. The same source said this decision was adopted in the wake of the rabid campaign waged by the Iranian press to harm Algerian interests.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that a strongly worded press campaign was waged against Algeria, its people, and institutions by the Iranian official media in the past few days.

In view of this continued campaign, which has acquired a regrettable dimension aimed at harming the national interests of Algeria and its sovereignty and the unity of its people, the foreign minister, according to the spokesman, has drawn the attention of the Iranian ambassador to Algeria to the unacceptable nature of these acts and the negative results that they will have on the relations between the two countries.

Instead of matters ending at this point, the spokesman added, the campaign was championed by religious personalities and Iranian political and official figures.

According to the statement, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran was received at the Foreign Ministry on 17 and 18 January to be given official Algerian protests.

As a result of all this, the Algerian Government has decided to recall its ambassador from Tehran, while the Iranian ambassador is expected to return home shortly.

On the other hand, according to confirmed sources, Algerian authorities intend to abandon their representation of Iranian interests in Washington.

Ambassador Departs Tehran 20 Jan

LD2001100792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Mr. Abdelkader Hadjar, Algerian ambassador to Iran, left Iran this morning after the Algerian Government had recalled him to protest the violent campaign directed against Algeria which officials and the press are waging in Iran.

It is known that voices of some parties have risen these days in Algeria requesting the severance of diplomatic relations with Iran.

Reports of Clashes, Security Force Actions

Police Surround Mosque, Arrest Five

LD1701105492 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] In Algiers, the police have been deployed around a mosque in Bab El Oued, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] stronghold. According to eyewitnesses, at least five FIS members have been arrested near the Sunni mosque. This has not been officially confirmed.

Again according to eyewitnesses, the police carried out systematic identity checks of drivers wearing beards, a distinctive feature of fundamentalists. Those who were not residents of the Bab El Oued district had to turn back.

FIS provisional leader Abdelkader Hachani is expected to attend the Sunni mosque for Friday prayers.

Hachani Says 500 FIS Supporters Arrested

LD1701235192 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The most important statement in the Friday sermon delivered by Abedlkader Hachani, the official reponsible for the provisional bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front, was his announcement that Algerian security authorities have arrested more than 500 supporters of the front.

Hachani did not reveal in his speech at Sunnni mosque at Bab El Oued the circumstances of these arrests. [passage omitted]

Police Detain Weapons Theft Suspects

LD2001015492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Sources at the national gendarmerie command have confirmed that its officials are detaining a number of people suspected of having been on the run after having stolen weapons from some barracks of the national gendarmerie and units affiliated to it.

Among the people who are being sought are those who were implicated in the Guemar case, whose identities are known to the gendarmerie, according to the sources. A search is under way also for armed persons who had seized weapons during an attack on some gendarmerie bases and units, including an attack on a gendarmerie unit in the region of Bou Merad, Blida Governorate, and the Guemar Barracks in El Oued Governorate. The same sources said that those who have been detained are being questioned to ascertain their identity and previous records. They will be released if involvement in any case is not proven within 48 hours.

The sources emphasized that the national gendarmerie services have found bladed weapons and whips in the possession of the detainees. They have also recorded the noncompliance of a private truck driver with orders to

stop in front of a barrier erected by the gendarmerie at Baraki which forced them to open fire on him. However, he managed to escape with his companions, leaving the truck where it had stopped.

On the other hand, the gendarmerie command said that in the event of its forces being subject to an attack, it could seek the help of troops stationed at intersections in the capital and its suburbs to stop the perpetrators.

Bomb Attack Against Gendarmerie Center

LD1901095492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] The Algerian press service said that the headquarters of the national gendarmerie control center was last night the target of a traditional bomb [as heard] by an unknown assailant.

The attack did not cause any casualties.

Bomb Attack Kills Soldier

LD1901123292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] It has been learned from the general command of the national gendarmerie that a soldier was killed and two gendarmes were wounded in the early of hours of today following an attack by armed persons against a surveillance post situated between Sidi Moussa and Kalitous [place-name as heard], on the outskirts of Algiers.

Also, a military vehicle was fired upon.

The general command of the national gendarmerie added that conventional bombs were used in the armed attack. The party behind the attack is still unknown, however.

Bomb Attack on Algiers Police Post

LD2001094192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpts] A communique from the gendarmerie authorities states that the national gendarmerie are currently pursuing a number of suspects, including those who took part in the Guemar incidents. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses said that the police constabulary in Algiers' El Anasser quarter was attacked on Sunday evening, with conventional bombs being used.

Gendarme Killed; Youths Attack Roadblocks

NC2101103992 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, Jan 21 (AFP)b—A gendarme was killed in eastern Algeria and youths hurled stones at roadblocks and security forces overnight in continuing tension as the Army-backed government stepped up pressure on Islamic fundamentalists.

Gendarmes and soldiers fired warning shots to scare off the youths, though there were no victims, unofficial sources said on Tuesday.

The gendarme was shot late Saturday night in Lakhdaria, 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Algiers, when four assailants opened fire from two vehicles, the daily AL-WATAN said Tuesday quoting police.

Aissa Amari, 43, a father of four, died Sunday from the gunshot wounds. The report did not identify the attackers, but said all had been arrested.

Violent clashes broke out in Lakhdaria last June between Islamic fundamentalists and security forces leaving several injured, including a police commissioner who was mutilated in a gruesome attack.

The sporadic attacks in and around the capital Monday night were made by gangs of youths who threw stones and bottles at security posts and roadblocks, according to the unofficial sources.

One such attack was launched against Army guards and gendarmes stationed outside a government building housing several ministries in central Algiers.

The sources did not say how many youths were involved, but said they fled when the warning shots were fired. There were no reported injuries.

In the capital's eastern suburbs, youths stoned several checkpoints set up along the main roads since former President Chadli Bendjedid resigned on January 11 under pressure from the Army, again with no reported injuries.

It was not immediately known if the youths were members of the FIS.

Authorities on Tuesday, meanwhile, said a soldier was killed and two gendarmes wounded in three attacks by "armed elements" early Sunday, including one near Sidi Moussa, 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of the capital.

Tension has mounted since the new ruling High State Council took power last week and cancelled a second round of elections the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Large numbers of Muslim fundamentalists have been searched, questioned and arrested during the past few days in a dragnet that appeared to be targeting FIS strongholds in the capital and other main cities.

FIS Warns Against Falling Into State's 'Trap'

LD1701190492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Abdelkader Hachani, the official responsible for the provisional national executive bureau of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has stated that his party's initial attitude during the current circumstances is to avoid falling into the trap drawn up by the regime for the FIS.

This plan is an attempt by the regime to persuade the FIS to order the people to take to the streets.

In the Friday sermon he delivered at noon today at the Sunni mosque in Bab El Oued, in Algiers, Abdelkader Hachani asked all FIS strugglers and supporters to be cautious and not to respond to any provocations. He asked them to watch the level of events in order to not enable the regime to do what it wants.

Front Criticizes State's 'Evil Intentions'

LD1801233892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] APS this evening reported Islamic Salvation Front statement No. 7, which emphasizes that the FIS is still determined to exhaust all possible means to save the country from sliding into the whirlwind of directing the defenders of the homeland to kill the sons of the homeland despite the evil intentions hatched by, according to the statement, the ruling gang [tughmah] behind the screen of the guardianship council.

The same statement reported the arrests of FIS citizens and fighters, in particular from the national El Choura Council and elected councils.

Hachani Presents Political Demands

LD1901212492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] In a communique published today the Islamic Salvation Front denounces, I quote, arrests among its elected representatives and members of the Majlis El Choura, arrests which have not been officially confirmed. Also today, the FIS provisional leadership gathered together its deputies who were elected in the first round of the legislative elections. The meeting was held under close surveillance in the headquarters of the people's council of Algiers city. Here are the details from reporter (Irani Ashuli):

[(Ashuli)] Mr. Abdelkader Hachani read out five resolutions signed by the 188 elected representatives of the FIS to the national and international press. The first, which is addressed to the Constitutional Council, denounces the anticonstitutional nature of the resignation of the president of the Republic.

The second calls on the president of the Higher State Council, Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, as a historic figure, to—I quote—place himself above the organs of the current authorities, indeed to dissociate himself from them, end quote.

The third resolution is addressed to the parliamentarians of the world to denounce the halt in the electoral process and the establishment of the Higher State Council.

Resolution No. four calls national and international public opinion to witness, asking them to oppose the current institutions. The FIS proposes to gather together the representatives elected in the first round to form an assembly which will designate a president to ensure vacancy both at the National Assembly and the presidency of the Republic. This is their objective, Mr. Hachani said.

Finally, the fifth point is a general policy statement in which the FIS warns against any sedition which might lead the country into chaos. The FIS says it is opposed to the possible establishment of a national consultative council and asks the National People's Army to distance itself from all political dealings.

In conclusion, the FIS reiterated its demands, notably the release of the political prisoners, headed by Ali Belhadj and Abassi Madani. One may also note very clear threats from Mr. Hachani against the national press, which he accuses of being the instrument of the authorities.

Very well-informed observers noted that of the 188 signatories of these five resolutions, only 102 were present; the absentees are reportedly members of the tendency of the FIS to which Mr. Mohamed Said belongs.

Hachani Warns State Against Dissolving FIS

LD2001132392 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] We present an interview given to Francoise Joly, our special correspondent in Algeria, in which Islamic Salvation Front leader Hachani warns the Algerian authorities against a possible dissolution of his party:

[Begin Hachani recording, in Arabic fading into French translation] If the authorities dissolve the FIS, the people will answer. Today the FIS represents the whole of the people, and all of the people are with us. It would be a grave mistake for the authorities, but these authorities have already made some mistakes and have displayed dictatorial tendencies. For some days they have been arresting FIS members of parliament without any justification. [end recording]

Military Court To Consider FIS Leaders' Release

LD1901225492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] It has been learned from the Military Public Prosecution Office at Blida that the chamber of charges at the Bleida Military Court will consider tomorrow the plea for the temporary release of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] made by their defense panel.

The source affirmed that the chamber of charges will hold a meeting to consider the plea for a temporary release without trying the FIS leaders, as has been reported by some information media.

Appeals Chamber Rejects Request

LD2001203292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Quoting 'Ali Yahya Abdenour, one of the lawyers defending the Islamic Salvation Front leaders who are detained in Blida Military Prison, the Algerian press service reports that today the Blida Court Chamber of Appeals rejected the procedural method used by the investigating judge dealing with the FIS leaders' case.

Abdenour said that the investigating judge was asked to correct his procedure for resubmission to the chamber of appeals.

It should be recalled that the Blida Military Court Chamber of Appeals considered on Monday the plea for a temporary release submitted by the defense panel of the FIS leaders.

Political Parties Comment on Higher State Council

Hamas Urges Return To 'Legitimacy'

LD2001200992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Society Movement, Hamas, today organized an open meeting for various influential public figures to find solutions to the current crisis being experienced by Algeria.

At this meeting, which attended by scholars, men of law and higher education, and teachers, [Hamas leader] Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah called for the establishment of a committee that he called a peace committee. He also proposed that contacts be established with the Higher State Council, and he reiterated his position which calls for a return to constitutional legitimacy.

Safeguard Council Criticizes 'Trickery'

LD1801132192 Algiers APS in English 1037 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Algiers, 18/01/92 (APS)—The creation of the High State Committee [as received] which is "a beginning of solution to the serious political crisis" of the country, aims at the safeguard of republican institutions and the unity of the nation in order "to present [words indistinct] confiscation of the soul of the Algerian nation", the National Council for Algeria Safeguard (CNSA) estimated. In a communique signed by its president, Abdelhak Benhamouda and released on Friday, the CNSA estimated that "the trickery" of the electoral process, denounced by the civil society, aimed at "an assassination in order of the country". According to the CNSA, the "so-called democratic process set up by the political power" was only but the product of games of partisan leaderships and alliances against nature.

Popular Forces Front Expresses Support

LD1801233292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] The Popular Forces Front expressed in a statement published today its support for the Higher State Council and its belief that this is the only refuge for the settlement of the complicated crisis that the country has reached due to the former regime and the stubborness of the fundamentalists who adopt extremism as the only path to reach power, disregarding the interests of the people and the homeland.

Parties Praise Council

LD1801215292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Today we recorded many reactions following the formation of the Higher State Council.

First, Mr. Abdelhak Benhamouda, chairman of the Committee for Safeguarding Algeria, issued a statement in which he said that the formation of the Higher State Council is the beginning of the way out of the dangerous political crisis and a protection of the Republic's institutions and national unity.

The Social Democratic Party, said that the formation of the council and the resort to one of the historical facets to control the country's affairs is considered a rational and acceptable solution to emerge from the dramatic crisis.

The Union for Democracy and Liberties noted with satisfaction the creation of a collective state council headed by an honest citizen who always stayed away from any involvement, for the sake of safeguarding the state of law, national unity, democracy, and liberties. [passage omitted]

FLN Central Committee Rejects Mehri Statements

LD1701195292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] [Announcer] The statement by the National Liberation Front [FLN] secretary general maintaining that the proposed solutions are not in accord with the spirit or letter of the Constitution, and the attempts to get closer to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] continue to provoke strong disapproval among FLN Central Committee members, as well as among the militant rank and file. This evening Mr. Bouhara is live with us to represent a group inside the FLN Central Committee. Good evening Mr. Bouhara.

[Bouhara] I would like to read a statement written in the name of Central Committee members.

[Announcer] Mr. Bouhara, we are listening to you.

[Bouhara] Once more, the Central Committee secretary general, during his 15 January news conference, regardless of the party statutes, found it normal to commit the

FLN to serious and national issues without previously consulting the Central Committee. Therefore, statements made by him on this occasion cannot commit the Central Committee under any circumstances.

Signed: Mohamed Zaab, Mohamed Lakhdar Lkhadari, Mohamed Nabi, Salah Goudjil, Mohamed Boukhacha, Nait Abdelmalek Ouamar, Abderrazak Bouhara.

[Announcer] Mr. Bouhara, thank you.

Mehri Clarifies Stand Toward Council

LD1801235192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Following the reaction of some members of the Central Committee and strugglers in the National Liberation Front regarding the statements and stands of FLN Secretary General Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri vis-a-vis the creation of the Higher State Council and the meeting with the leaderships of the Islamic Salvation Front and the Front of Socialist Forces [FFS], Mr. Mehri gave some clarifications to APS.

The FLN secretary general emphasized that the FLN Political Bureau made some remarks regarding the fact that events have gone beyond the Constitution. Mr. Mehri indicated that the Political Bureau had conveyed these remarks to the Constitutional Council and that it still believes that the outcome of these events does not comply with the text of the Constitution. He explained that these remarks come within the framework of observation and opinion in connection with the developments and the extent of conformity with the Constitution.

Mr. Mehri indicated that the development of events will clarify our view and that had everyone committed themselves to the spirit of the Constitution, many initiatives would not have taken place.

As for the contacts between the FLN and FIS leaderships, Mr. Mehri said that the contacts which took place find their justification in the decision of the Political Bureau before the beginning of the latest election campaign, in addition to the development of events in the national arena and the request made by the FIS to hold the aforementioned meeting on the same day in which the request was made, a matter which led us, Mr. Mehri said, to respond positively to this request.

Mehri Affirms Position on Developments

LD1901100392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Abdelhamid Mehri, National Liberation Front secretary general, said that the party Political Bureau sticks to its stand—namely, that the developments in the country since the resignation of the previous president remain unconstitutional.

This clarification came as a reply to the criticism by members of the party and its activist base who rejected the stand of the party on the current conditions in the country. A number of members of the Central Committee and the party activists have called for withdrawing confidence in the current leadership of the FLN party.

FLN Members Continue Mehri Opposition

LD1901134792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Despite the fact that no information has leaked out about what was discussed during the recent contacts between the three fronts—the Islamic Salvation Front, the National Liberation Front, and the Socialist Forces Front—the talks still produced numerous and mainly conflicting reactions, including the fear of an alliance of the three fronts that won most of the votes cast in the legislative elections.

Some of this reaction began to appear in the form of cracks in the FFS. The former Secretary General Nait Djoudi denounced the meeting between FFS Secretary General Hocine Ait Ahmed and Hachani. However, Ait Ahmed affirmed that what took place is within the efforts which are taking place in complete openness to avert confrontation and to safeguard civil peace.

In the FLN, two members of the Political Bureau and 18 members of the Central Committee, in addition to some former war veterans and activists, moved in an opposite direction to the statements and moves of Secretary General Abelhamid Mehri. Some of these personalities emphasized that what Mehri has done represents only himself, and they called on him to hold an emergency session [of the FLN leadership]. In reply, Abdelhamid Mehri said that the Political Bureau has decided to convene an emergency session of the Central Committee on Saturday. Its agenda will have one point—namely, to study the overall developments in the political arena. Before this date, the General Secretariat sent urgent telegrams to the secretaries of the provinces throughout the homeland explaining the steps which have taken place. Mehri said: We have not allied with anyone. Our meetings with the two fronts were dictated by the higher interest of the country. [passage omitted]

A statement by the FLN's Algiers branch says: The branch and sections of the FLN in the capital which met yesterday at the provincial headquarters said that after reading the contents of the telegram of the FLN party secretary general, the branch expressed in a statement its rejection of those meetings which took place with the political formations which expressed their stand toward the FLN on more than one occasion.

'Wave of Protest' Against Mehri

LD2001131792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Explanations given by Mr. Mehri after his meeting with Islamic Salvation Front leaders and after stating his stands on developments in the situation in the country have not given satisfaction to the FLN base, as its wave of protest suggests. So far over 20 prominent

members of the Central Committee and two members of the Political Bureau have strongly condemned Mr. Mehri's move.

At the district level, contagious protests of Mr. Mehri's move have widened to include virtually the whole of the Algerian west, while nearly all districts in Algiers Province agree on withdrawing confidence from the FLN Political Bureau. It is known that after voices were raised against Mr. Mehri's move, he decided to call a meeting of the Central Committee for this Saturday. [passage omitted]

Ghozali Comments on Bendjedid Resignation

LD2001191892 Brussels La Une Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali has not expressed himself in public since the resignation of President Chadli and the cancelation of the second round of the legislative elections. He has granted an exclusive interview to our special correspondents (Istra Felkahi) and (Anne Kinef) from the television news, as well as (Robert ?Verdushaine) of LA LIBRE BELGIQUE. The question was put to the Algerian prime minister: Did President Chadli resign of his own accord or was he pushed into doing so? Here he is:

[Begin Ghozali recording] A leader, whoever he is, always receives advice or else is subject to pressure; indeed, he can be subject to very strong pressure. In fact, what is the line between advice and pressure which is more or less strong? The most important thing is to know whether the president of the Republic has resigned, yes or no; and he has resigned.

My government found itself faced with a situation; it found itself faced with a statement from the Constitutional Council. It abided by this. This may appear to you as an avoidance of the institutional debate or the constitutional debate on my part. But let me tell you that it is a futile debate. The Constitution in any country is not an end in itself; what is an end in itself is the future of a people, the future of a nation. This emphasis laid on the institutional aspect appears to me to be futile next to the stakes which this country is living through. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Promises Assistance to New Algerian Leader

NC1901154692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Jan 92

["Text" of cable from President Husni Mubarak to Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of Algeria's Higher State Council, on 19 January]

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—On the occasion of your appointment as HSC [Higher State Council] chairman, I send you my heartfelt congratulations and my sincerest wishes to you and all HSC members for success in shouldering your great responsibility of maintaining the safety, strength, unity, security, and stability of fraternal Algeria.

The Egyptian leadership and people will continue to closely follow developments in your fraternal country due to the special position that Algeria occupies in the hearts of the Egyptian people and because of the close historic relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples.

I would like to emphasize to you that Egypt will not hesitate to extend all possible aid and assistance to fraternal Algeria at this critical historic stage. We pray that God Almighty will help Algeria overcome this stage peacefully and guide its sons toward its former prosperity and welfare.

Mubarak—Syria's al-Asad To Visit Cairo 'Soon'

NC2001081592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit Cairo soon to resume discussions on the peace talks.

In an exclusive interview with MAYU Editor in Chief Samir Rajab, President Mubarak said he sent Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Damascus on a mission related to the peace negotiations. Musa met President al-Asad to coordinate stands on the multilateral talks.

In remarks published in today's MAYU, the organ of the National Democratic Party, President Mubarak said that President al-Asad will visit Cairo to resume discussion of the peace talks and other important Arab and international issues and also to discuss Egyptian-Syrian relations.

As for developments in Algeria, President Mubarak affirmed that he is following them closely because Algerians are linked to us by bonds of Arab and Islamic fraternity. We wish them stability.

President Mubarak dealt with a number of domestic issues, asserting that the first and last objective of all we do is to serve the people and future generations, who deserve stability. This is our primary responsibility.

Paper Urges Russia, U.S. To 'Rescue' Peace Talks

NC2101082192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 21 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New Experience for Peace," AL-JUMHURIYAH reports today that observers believe it is most likely that multilateral talks on Middle East peace will be postponed because of recent regional developments. The paper singled out the Israeli cabinet crisis and the withdrawal of some of the more extremist ministers, which is expected to force Shamir to opt for early elections. The Likud are pinning

their hopes on this solution due to increasingly extremist views in Israel. Egypt is therefore trying to step up its efforts and contacts, not only to emphasize the dangers of the situation and the negative implications for regional stability, but also to salvage the peace talks, for it was understood that there would be difficulties and that obstacles could halt the talks.

The paper urges the patient waging of a diplomatic battle with calm nerves to force the other side to examine the underlying issues and move away from procedural obstacles.

The paper goes on to say that given the U.S. and Russian commitment to make the negotiations succeed, they should intervene at the right moment to rescue the talks. This is what Arab and world public opinion expect, especially because it has been proven that the source of belligerence and stubbornness is Israel and Shamir's government, which blithely announces that it is serious about peace while refusing to give up a single inch of the occupied territories.

In short, this is a new experience in the struggle for peace, and it is unreasonable to expect the Middle East cause to go back into the deep freeze until Israeli elections are held midway through the year.

Labor Party Urges New Constitution, Elections

NC1701151492 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Jan 92 p 4

[Excerpts] As part of his field tours and meetings with people in all the governorates, Socialist Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri was joyously received by residents of Qina, Luxor, and Qus.

The Socialist Labor Party held public conferences wherever struggler Ibrahim Shukri spoke, reviewing and analyzing our painful and deteriorating domestic and foreign situations. He praised the democratic experiment in Algeria for exposing the false claimants and said he hoped that our government would hear the people's view and hold fair elections, as in Algeria and in other countries in which dictatorships were brought down. Shukri also uncovered U.S. and Zionist conspiracies to control the nation's resources by employing the Security Council as a cover for imposing international sanctions against Libya, similar to those imposed on Iraq.

Shukri asked President Mubarak to unshackle the Egyptian people and introduce a new constitution to establish the bases for justice and shura to govern. Winds of change have swept the world but Egypt lives inside a big prison where the rulers have unsheathed the sword of emergency [law] against the people. He said: O loved ones, Egypt is the only country in which elections are rigged. What a shame! All countries, even Africa, respect their peoples' will. When will the Egyptian people's will and dignity be respected?

He added: O loved ones, I assure you that the oppressor and the oppressed will be brought to account on judgment day and the oppressed will be asked: "Why did you not reject injustice?" Kenneth Kaunda, the hero of Zambia's independence, submitted to his people's will and held free and fair elections. He and his party lost. He gave up the presidency and joined in opposition with his party. Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid also submitted to his people's will, gave up the leadership of the ruling party, and held fair elections.

Shukri went on: We tell President Mubarak that we are no less than these countries. You must respond to the nation's demands in charting a new constitution. You have the chance of a lifetime in the remainder of your second term to cancel the state of emergency and hold impartial and just elections.

He said: And we tell Mubarak: Our relations with Sudan must be good and we must seriously and honestly seek to strengthen ties with Libya and Sudan to form a big country that will be allied with other Arab countries and lead Islam. Egypt must assume the vanguard in the Arab and Islamic nation. We will never be a tail for America because God is greater than it and its allies. The United States and its allies will not hesitate to conspire and use violence to achieve its goals, using the Security Council as a cover for imposing international sanctions on Libya, similar to those imposed on Iraq. [passage omitted]

We tell Mubarak: Those around you are thieves and the country must get rid of them.

Libya

Tripoli Mediating Algeria-Iran Rift

LD1901120292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Jan (JANA)—JANA has learned that within the framework of the leading role played by the great al-Fatih Revolution and its leader in tackling all Arab and Islamic issues within an Arab and Islamic framework, the Great Jamahiriyah is currently carrying out intensive mediation efforts to contain the split in relations between Algeria and Iran, and also between Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

This development arises from the principled stand of the Great Jamahiriyah in tackling issues due to its desire to avert a split in Arab and Islamic ranks by using whatever realizes the unity of the Arab and Islamic nation and focuses its efforts on confronting the dangers that threaten its security and safety.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Algeria's Boudiaf

LD1801214992 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] A telephone conversation took place today between the brother leader of the revolution and brother Mohamed Boudiaf, president of the State Council in fraternal Algeria.

The brother leader of the revolution enquired about conditions in Algeria. Brother Boudiaf reassured the brother leader of the revolution about conditions in Algeria.

Memorandum on Terrorism Sent to UN's Ghali

LD1901092592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 19 (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general asking for the convening of a special session of the UN General Assembly to reach a definition of international terrorism and to put an end to it and to its causes, which are concealed behind all forms of terrorism and acts of violence which the world is being subjected to, and to all the dangerous issues which interest all nations. This stems from the historic and pioneering responsibility undertaken by the al-Fatih Revolution to find solutions to many problems and issues which preoccupy mankind, as the Green Book is known to all peoples in the world as constituting a basis for the liberation of peoples from oppression, exploitation, and ignorance, and out of the feeling that the phenomenon of international terrorism constitutes a danger to world peace and international security. Through this session the international community can deal in solidarity with the causes of international terrorism and put an end to it so as to give an opportunity for establishing a secure international climate in which all peoples can live in peace, security, and happiness according to a real exercise of the UN Charter. Here is the text of the memorandum sent by the brother secretary of the People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation to the UN secretary general:

First: Arms of mass destruction, offensive, and strategic weapons: The possession of these weapons and the threat to use them constitutes a dangerous type of fear for the whole of mankind including those who possess these weapons. Therefore, we suggest that it is necessary that agreement be reached on a definite timetable for achieving the following:

1. The total destruction of nuclear, bacteriological, and chemical weapons on account of the fact that they are psychologically fearsome and materially destructive weapons.

2. The banning of the possession and use of these weapons and to consider such possession and use as a crime.

3. The destruction of the other weapons of terror such as ballistic missiles, and the banning of their manufacture and to regard this as a crime.

4. The banning and regarding as a crime the presence of naval fleets in the seas and to confine their presence to oceans on condition that such fleets should be disposed of for good.

5. The destruction, banning, and regarding as a crime the manufacture and possession of aircraft carriers and aircraft used as tankers for midair refuelling.

6. To restrict the possession of weapons to the defensive type only and within the confines of the territorial waters and airspace of each state.

For the sake of bolstering all that military bases belonging to any state in another state should be liquidated and removed as armies of states in other states should be withdrawn.

Second: Compensation: Peoples who have been colonized or subjected to genocide and repression by their [former] colonial powers should receive compensation. Compensation to families and individuals who have previously suffered from acts of aggression would end acts of rancor and vengeance which are today considered to be acts of international terrorism.

1. Damages should be paid for the period of colonialism. Colonial powers should pay fair reparations to their former colonies to compensate them for damages suffered as a result of the plundering their resources and the theft of their cultural heritage during the period of colonialism.

2. Damages should be paid to peoples, families, and individuals who have been victims of terrorism and violence in accordance with Appendix No. 2 [not further identified], for example.

3. Consolidating aircraft security and the need to have a medical team abroad all air flights and sea trips.

Third: Refugees, exiles, and hostages: Such groups have contributed to the spread of the phenomenon of terrorism and violence under various justifications between their countries of origin and those countries that have given them refuge or have been exploiting them. Therefore: All countries should pledge that they will allow the return of exiles and refugees to their homelands, and that they will not bar them from doing so and that they will help them to resettle. All hostages and detainees should be released and all wanted persons should be handed over to Interpol.

Fourth: Reconsideration of the UN Charter: The guarantee of international peace and security is a very important and serious matter. Therefore, the participation of the majority of people in the shouldering of such a duty will lead to the elimination of terrorism and will consolidate international stability and security, a matter which will only be attained through the amendment of the UN Charter.

1. The UN General Assembly [UNGA], in which all member countries are represented, should be made the authority which makes decision; and the UN Security Council should implement UNGA resolutions.

2. The reexamination of UN Security Council membership and the right of veto.

3. The reexamination of the International Court of Justice.

Fifth: Economic and social issues.

To create a world dominated by stability and prosperity to arrive at the stage of realizing a happy society which contributes to the creation of stability and security. Uprooting terrorism has become a matter of extreme importance. To realize this important step along the road of man's happiness, we propose the implementation of the following plan:

1. A committment to the implementation of international agreements in the field of the welfare and protection of motherhood and childhood.

2. A ban on all aspects of violence like boxing and wrestling of all forms, and of races which are tiring to animals; and to be kind to animals.

3. To firmly tackle dangerous diseases like cancer, AIDS, polio in children, and malaria—Appendix C.

4. To combat and treat the taking of white poisons.

5. To be committed to international agreements on protecting the environment and to reach agreement on protecting the ozone layer.

6. To establish a new international irrigation system which prevents the flow of rivers, rain, and ice to the sea and ocean and to distribute this resource on land.

7. To desalinate sea water with minimum cost.

8. To wipe out agricultural diseases and in particular locusts.

9. To combat desertification.

10. To exploit solar energy.

This entire matter as your excellency knows needs financing to implement it; therefore, this historic proposal calls for the establishment of an international fund to be funded by all states in accordance with their abilities to cover the cost of all the aforementioned commitments. The fund should be put under the UNGA.

Sixth—To set up an international central committee affiliated to the United Nations and with subcommittees under it to cover all regions of the world. These committees should be given powers and the necessary means to carry out the tasks of inspection and implementation.

Copies Distributed to Envoys

LD2001151692 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation this morning handed the ambassadors of Pakistan and Afghanistan and the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah the text of the important historic proposal submitted by the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations concerning solutions to a number of grave issues which threaten and engulf the world as individuals and as countries.

The People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation has also delivered the text of this important proposal to EC ambassadors posted to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The proposal calls for summoning the UN General Assembly to hold an emergency meeting to discuss international terrorism and eliminate its causes because of the threat it poses to international peace and security, in addition to other issues of concern to all world nations, including the issues of Palestine and South Africa and the problem of minorities in the world.

Bureau Denies al-Bishari To Attend UN Session

LD1701153692 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Jan (JANA)—An informed source in the People's Committee of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau denied reports concerning the trip of brother Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, to New York to attend the UNSC [UN Security Council] session.

Morocco

King Congratulates Algerian Leader on Appointment

LD2001153692 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, sent a cable of congratulations to Mohamed Boudiaf on the occasion of his appointment as head of the Algerian Higher State Council. Here is the text of the cable:

To Your Excellency Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council:

Mr. President,

On the occasion of your appointment as head of the Higher State Council in the sister Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, we have the great pleasure of sending Your Excellency our most sincere congratulations and best wishes, pleading with God to grant you righteousness and success for the good, security and stability, and prosperity of Algeria.

We take advantage of this occasion to reiterate to Your Excellency our sincere wish to work together for the continuation of our common march, whether on the bilateral level so as to strenghten brotherly relations between our two peoples and countries and to consolidate cooperation relations between them, or in order to propel the construction of our great Arab Maghreb

Union forward in ways liable to achieve the aspirations of our brotherly peoples for more solidarity, sympathy, and unity.

Mr. President, please accept our expressions of high esteem.

[Signed] Hassan II, king of Morocco

Tunisia

Ben Ali Sends Congratulations to Algeria's Boudiaf

LD1701204992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali addressed a message of congratulations to Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, the text of which follows:

I am pleased, on the occasion of your assuming the chairmanship of the Higher State Council of the fraternal Algerian Republic, to address to you and to the brother members of the council the most sincere congratulations, hoping that God Almighty will make you successful in your lofty tasks in these critical and decisive circumstances through which your dear homeland is passing.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm to you Tunisia's stand by the side of its brothers in Algeria and its solidarity with them. We hope that they are successful, thanks to their determination and their spirit of sacrifice, in overcoming the occasional difficulties, and that they have the strength and determination to achieve their aspirations for development, progress, strength, and constructive participation in strengthening the Maghreb edifice. May God make you successful in your endeavor and grant you success and guidance in your work.

Saddam Appoints New Head of Security Department

LD1801113992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Saddam's opponents have been organized into various groups to attack crucial government centers and have succeeded over the past few days in ambushing Saddam's army on their route between al-Basrah and al-Qurnah, in attacking Iraqi military and security centres in throughout the country, and in killing a number of Ba'athist and security forces.

Meanwhile, reports from Iraq indicate that the ('Ashirat al-Jabir) and other tribes of that country have joined Saddam's opponents en masse and have inflicted casualties and damage to Saddam's forces in northern, southern, and western Iraq in coordinated operations. Some of the ('Ashirat al-Jabir's) combatants were recently arrested and executed on Saddam's orders. Members of this tribe have killed 100 of the Iraqi force by infiltrating the al-'Amarah area, Maysan Province.

With the growth of Islamic and antigovernment movements of the Muslim people of Iraq, Saddam has changed the name of the Estekhbarat department of the Iraqi Army to the Security Department and has appointed an Army colonel—a relative of his—to head the department.

Following the changes in the Army security system and the Iraqi Information and Security Departments undertaken for the purpose of further suppressing the people and preventing their Islamic movements, a large number of forces have been stationed in various areas of the Iraqi capital by the Security Department and the Army.

Baghdad 'Completely' Surrounded by Defense Troops

NC1901135692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Citizens in the capital have said that Baghdad is now completely isolated and surrounded by the tyrant's troops, who are supported by various military equipment as a precaution against major events which will take place in the country.

Citizens intending to leave Baghdad for the south in the past few days have noted that the checkpoints established at the approaches to Baghdad only let people enter and exit after being searched and requested to present documents proving they are traveling with official authorization.

The citizens add that strict security measures are imposed on vehicles going to and from Baghdad. Taxis also are restricted; a specific number of taxis are listed with their license plate numbers and owners on documents distributed to extensively deployed checkpoints along the roads leading from Baghdad to northern and southern Iraq.

Army Chief of Staff Cables Saddam

JN1901145692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Cable from Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, Army chief of staff, to President Saddam Husayn on the first anniversary of the "eternal epic of the Mother of Battles"; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

To: His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, staff field marshal and commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces, may God protect him.

From: Combatant Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, Army chief of staff.

Your excellency the leader president: On this day last year, 17 January 1991, the glorious Iraqis, under the banner of God Is Great, carried out the greatest heroic epic seen in the contemporary history of our Arab nation when they valiantly and courageously confronted the 30-state aggression. This aggression sought to undermine our great Iraq and to destroy the accomplishments of our generous revolution, a revolution which has built the desired cultural edifice and laid the foundations for a true renaissance of the Arab nation, something which infuriated the Zionist and U.S. aggressors. This prompted them to contrive their designs and machinations in the lobbies of darkness and conspiracy under the guise of launching a new world order, to target the manifestations of construction, civilization, and science. Hence, they launched their treacherous aggression against our patient and steadfast people. They deluded themselves into believing that by so doing, they would be able to undermine the will of defiance and steadfastness demonstrated by our heroic people and their great leadership.

However, your chivalrous and blessed sons were lying in wait for them. Thus, the chapters of the Mother of Battles were waged between the forces of evil and falsehood on the one hand, and the forces of good and right on the other. Consequently, we witnessed the great showdown, the greatest jihad, and the battle chosen by Almighty God, the Most High, to vindicate right and to eliminate falsehood and those pursuing it, as well as to further nurture the values of justice and honor. So the days of the battle and the splendid steadfastness seen in it—steadfastness which amazed the aggressors and which drove them into despair—were days replete with pride and immortality. During these days, your blessed soldiers wrote epics of pride, honor, and victory. These days will be recalled by future generations with pride and honor.

Your excellency the victorious leader: The sons of Iraq, along with all honorable people in our homeland and the world at large, fought under your victorious banner, the banner of God Is Great. Thus, you were the audacious hero and the great knight who showed himself to be a man who does not panic when confronted with difficulties when the issue at stake is vindicating right and

fighting tyranny. We derived inspiration from your patience and resolve, which taught us all possible meanings of heroism and sacrifice. Consequently, our swords remained shining and were brandished in the face of tyranny. The forces of evil were unable to dent them; these swords were produced and manufactured from the values of Arab honor planted by our great-grandfathers in the psyche of their righteous descendants.

Now, while recalling the chapters of glory and pride in the Mother of Battles, it pleases me to renew, in my name and on behalf of all combatants working within the ranks of our heroic Army, the army of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle and the Mother of Battles, the pledge of heroism and loyalty to his excellency leader President Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, the symbol of Iraq and the forger of its glory, may God protect him.

God is great. May the lowly be accursed.

[Signed] Combatant Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, Army chief of staff

Military State Minister Cables Saddam

JN1901181392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Cable from Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs, to President Saddam Husayn on the first anniversary of the "eternal epic of the Mother of Battles and the 30-state aggression against the Iraqi people;" date not given]

[Text] These days we are marking the first anniversary of the ferocious and treacherous U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression which began on the night of 16-17 January 1991. The aggression targeted our infrastructure with the goal of halting the comprehensive construction drive and the modern progress achieved in our beloved Iraq under your excellency's leadership in the aftermath of the blessed 17-30 July Revolution.

Your excellency the leader president, may God protect you. These attempts only served to bolster great Iraq's determination to confront these hostile endeavors which sought to undermine its pride and dignity. The treacherous 30-state aggression against our dear Iraq was led by the United States, Zionism, NATO members, and people of Arab origin. Faced with this aggression, the Iraqi people and armed forces, under your leadership, took a courageous stand in defense of beloved Iraq, the Arab nation, and the whole of mankind. Thus the enemies failed to achieve their malicious objectives, despite the brutal crimes they committed in their dirty war and their criminal attempts and resolutions, which reflect interference in the domestic affairs of Iraq. Iraq held out in the face of these attempts and resolutions and defied them, demonstrating the highest degree of pride and dignity.

Your excellency the leader president, may God protect you. We pledge to you that we will continue to fight behind your lofty and fluttering banner, ready to make all efforts to ensure the continuation of our victorious march.

Your excellency the leader president, may God grant you long life so that you can remain a historic leader for our great Iraq and a bright symbol of the aspirations and ambitions of the masses of our glorious Arab nation.

May God protect you and grant you success. He is the best support.

[Signed] 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs

Activities Marking Gulf War Anniversary Continue

JN1801105892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1011 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—Iraqis are continuing to express their anger and vehement condemnation of the brutal aggression launched against Iraq by the United States, its Atlantic allies, and the Arabs of vice on 16-17 January of last year.

For the third consecutive day, exhibitions and speeches and poetry rallies were held in Baghdad and other governorates to reflect on Iraq's victories and heroism in the great Mother of Battles against the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression.

Visits were organized to industrial sites, service installations, bridges, and power stations that had been subjected to aerial bombardment on this day last year.

Participants in the activities and rallies praised President Saddam Husayn's distinguished leadership and holy jihad along the path of glory, dignity, and splendid victory over the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation.

They denounced the continued unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq in violation of all charters, laws, international and humanitarian norms, and heavenly religions. [passage omitted]

Saddam Orders Envoys To Improve Ties With World

JN2001152192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1452 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Iraqi ambassadors to a number of world nations. He acquainted himself with their activities and gave directives aimed at bolstering the relations between our country and the world.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office; Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister; Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the two under secretaries of the Foreign Ministry.

UN Envoy Criticizes Oil Export Resolution

JN1701140892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, has emphasized that the harsh conditions of the embargo and the sea and air blockade established by the UN Security Council against Iraq have exhausted their purposes. Additionally, he noted, these conditions are illegitimate.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH published today, al-Anbari said: Iraq will adhere to its right to call for decreasing the percentage of reparations, which it had accepted in principle, as much as possible, especially during the five-year phase of rebuilding what has been destroyed by the aggression. It will also call for removing any obstacles hindering the export of Iraqi oil and the import of all commodities of a civilian nature needed by the people.

He stated: The amount of $1.6 billion set by the UN Security Council to cover Iraq's needs was arbitrary and covers very little of Iraq's needs. This is especially true as the net amount will be $900 million after deducting the reparations and the expenses of the various UN committees.

Al-Anbari pointed out that the resolution is illogical and that Iraq cannot deal with it because it does not meet the Iraqi people's needs, especially following the aggression and the destruction of the infrastructure and utilities. These needs, he said, will not come to an end with the end of the six-month time frame.

He emphasized that the Iraqi authorities have fully cooperated and provided the various inspection teams with what they needed to complete their tasks. He pointed out that these teams continue to look for the unknown and to use all excuses to justify their continued presence in Iraq.

He said that according to the UN Sanctions Committee's decision, the countries in which we have frozen assets can and are free to unfreeze these assets to enable the Iraqi authorities to pay for imported food and medical supplies.

Al-Anbari emphasized that the aid given by the UN agencies and humanitarian organizations to Iraq constitutes only a drop in the ocean when compared to the consumption of Iraqi citizens.

Paper Denies Claims on Nuclear Weapons

JN2001083692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has ridiculed Bush's instigation of the U.S. congressmen and his claims that Iraq is still concealing some nuclear materials that would enable it to manufacture nuclear weapons, and that Iraq's (?possession) of weapons with Saddam Husayn in power constitutes a danger to the Middle East.

In an article published today, the paper says: The big problem that worried Bush and continues to worry him is Iraq and Saddam Husayn, who stood steadfast and alone with the faithful, patient, and tested people of Iraq, together with some good Arabs and noble people in the world.

The paper adds: Yes, it is Saddam Husayn who worries the eyes and hearts of the enemies, for he chose the road of belief in pan-Arab and humanitarian principles, and he has become a symbol for all nationalists and free people in the world and in the experiment of national independence throughout past years. [passage omitted]

U.S. Professor Killed By 'Masked Individual'

TA1901211192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Dr. Albert Glock, an archeology professor of U.S. citizenship, who resided in the al-Ram neighborhood north of Jerusalem, was murdered near Bi'r Zayt University tonight. Our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay reports that Dr. Glock was parking his car near his research assistant's home when he was approached by a masked individual who fired a gun, killing him.

Yehuda District Police is now conducting an investigation at the site of the incident. The motives for the murder are not known at this date.

Shamir—'No Reason' To Fear Autonomy

Will 'Not Harm' Settlements

TA2001142692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said there is no reason to fear autonomy, which will not harm Jewish settlements, construction, or security, he said. The prime minister said autonomy is one of the ways to resolve the conflict. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Mr. Shamir made the remark after planting trees in the ultra-Orthodox settlement of Betar Ilit southwest of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Comments on Peace, Loan Guarantees

TA2001131092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1148 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Report by Gil Litman on news conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Betar on 20 January—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] A few minutes ago the prime minister ended a long news conference with many foreign and Israeli news correspondents. The first question he was asked referred to statements by the chairman of the opposition. I asked Yitzhaq Shamir for his opinion of Shim'on Peres' assertion that the peace process should be stopped and only continued after the elections.

[Shamir] I think that is sheer irresponsibility. Such statements harm the peace process before it has even got under way. Our major concern was always been just starting negotiations and sitting together, because the moment negotiations begin there is a chance that they will continue and achieve results. Now they come and say: stop! Why should we stop? True, there will be elections. There are always elections in a democratic country. Is that any reason to call off negotiations? I say that the negotiations will continue!

[Litman] How do you feel about the Egyptian foreign minister's demand that there must be tangible results in the peace process or Egypt will abandon it?

[Shamir] Egypt does not need to resign because it is not even participating in the process. That is first of all. The first peace agreement was reached with Egypt. It was initiated and implemented by the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat. I do not need to react to everything the minister said, but there is no doubt that peace requires negotiations. It is impossible to expect concrete results without first holding a long series of peace talks. We all know that peace negotiations and the making of peace between Israel and the Arab world is a difficult and complex task. Everyone knows that it must take time. I would like to ask everyone: How can we achieve results without holding negotiations? The negotiations have just begun. How many meetings were held? Three, correct? A meeting in Madrid, and two meetings in Washington. How can anyone expect concrete results so soon, after so many years of conflict and wars? Let us get on track. We are handling and leading the process. We are meeting with the representatives of our neighbors for the first time, and I must say that we feel that we are making progress. There is, however, still a long way to go.

[Litman] Sir, when do you think elections will be held, and will you lead your party if called upon to do so?

[Shamir] Look, there is talk about calling early elections. I do not want to say at this moment when elections will be held because we are already in an election year anyway. Elections will be held in 1992. There is only a few months difference between the dates mentioned: either three months earlier or three months later. That does not constitute a great difference. Whatever happens, elections will take place this year. As for your second question, if the Likud votes for me, I will accept.

[Litman] The issue of the loan guarantees is still the subject of discussions between the United States and Israel, and we will see what happens, was Yitzhaq Shamir's laconic answer to the question of whether Israel would freeze the settlements until after it gets the guarantees from the United States.

This was his response to the criticism leveled by the settlers at Defense Minister Moshe Arens and to the question of how they can be promised greater security in Judaea and Samaria:

[Shamir] I do not have to offer them anything. They are the pioneers of settlement. They went there, and we help and support them. We means the State of Israel, including all the state's security forces. The security forces are making tremendous efforts to maintain security. It is hard to seal off everything hermetically. I hope that the terror attacks will greatly diminish, if not totally cease. We are doing everything to achieve this. We greatly respect the courage, dedication, perseverance, and faith of the residents here in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and I very much request that they fully cooperate with the security forces. I again ask them to refrain from the actions that we have recently witnessed. Our heart revolts against such treatment of people entrusted with the security of the country. When was a

defense minister ever treated in such a manner? Such behavior is not human and not Jewish.

'No Power' Can Stop Settlements

TA2001161892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Report by correspondent in the territories Udi Segal]

[Excerpt] The prime minister, who planted a cedar in the Bethlehem District township of Betar today, was later awarded honorary citizenship in the 'Etzyon Bloc settlements. Speaking at the ceremony, the prime minister reiterated his support for Jewish settlement in the territories:

[Begin Shamir recording] We see construction all over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, in fact, throughout all of Eretz Yisra'el, and this construction will continue. No one, no power in the world, will prevent this construction! [applause] [end recording]

No power in the world, presumably including the U.S. President, who demands that construction cease in exchange for guarantees. Shamir is optimistic. To use his words, he has ears of another kind, the kind that hear more than just the bad news:

[Begin Shamir recording] We will build, and I hope very much that we will get the guarantees, too. In any event, what I am certain about is that we will continue absorbing immigrants. [end recording]

Shamir allays the settlers' apprehensions: They have no cause to fear autonomy, he tells them, pointing out at the same time that Israel is committed to the Camp David accords, including the concept of autonomy in the territories. His remarks imply that a long time will elapse before this commitment is implemented:

[Begin Shamir recording] Autonomy will not harm Jewish settlement, Jewish construction, or Jewish security. Autonomy is one of the ways to settle the conflict. It requires protracted, tedious negotiations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Peres Urges Halting Peace Talks Until Election

TA1901190592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Shim'on Peres is calling for the immediate suspension of the peace negotiations because the election campaign has undoubtedly begun, during which debates are bound to be a fashion show rather than negotiations. Mr. Peres believes that negotiations can be resumed only after a stable government is set up. Addressing the Labor Central Committee today, he urged the left-wing parties to join Labor's motion of no confidence in the government next week.

Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports that at the very same time, Knesset member Yitzhaq Rabin, in a speech in Haifa, urged the opposition to concentrate its efforts in passing a law to dissolve the Knesset and hold elections. In Rabin's view, the no-confidence motion is unnecessary and time-consuming while the desired results can be achieved by passing a law dissolving the house.

Tonight the Labor Central Committee reelected Mikha Harish secretary general. He received 88 percent of the votes.

Peres Explains 'Mistake'

TA2101070192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Report by Ya'aqov Mandel]

[Text] Knesset Member Shim'on Peres wishes to correct a mistake: I did not suggest that the political negotiations be stopped in view of the upcoming elections, he said.

[Begin Peres recording] What I said was that when public negotiations are conducted during an elections period, there are in fact no negotiations. That is why I suggested that the elections period be made as short as possible so that we may resume true negotiations. I did not suggest that the negotiations be stopped, nor did I call for any boycott of conferences. This is an unfounded interpretation. [end recording]

Speaking before teachers and educators in Haifa yesterday, Shim'on Peres drew the outlines of his plans if he is elected prime minister. The first decision he will make will be to transfer the funds now invested in settlements—between 3 to 4 billion shekels, according to him—to the employment and welfare spheres. First and foremost, however, will be the establishment of a functioning government, unlike the current government, as the Labor chairman views it:

[Begin Peres recording] Today Israel has a ruling government, but there is no functioning government. That is to say that there are people who hold the posts, apparatuses exist, but there is no management. We are the only country in the world where the finance minister does not talk to the industry and trade minister; both do not talk to the construction and housing minister; the three do not talk to the defense minister; the four of them are not on speaking terms with the foreign minister; and over the five of them we have a prime minister who takes a nap in the afternoon. Nowhere in the world does such a thing exist. [end recording]

Rabin Rejects Freezing Peace Process

TA2001134192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin criticized Shim'on Peres' proposal to hold elections in two months and to freeze the peace process until they are over. MK Rabin believes that the framework of the peace process has to be sustained even at this time. He was speaking to our correspondent this morning.

Rabin has also suggested that consultations with the Likud regarding a bill to advance the elections start immediately. If no agreement is reached by Monday, he believes a vote can be held on the no-confidence motion submitted to the Knesset.

This morning, MK's Mikha Harish, Labor secretary general, and Hayim Ramon, Labor whip, offered jointly to coordinate a date for the elections with the Likud Knesset faction, but Sara Doron, coalition chairperson, said that consultations must first be held within the Likud and then with the coalition partners.

The Likud Central Committee will convene in some three weeks to decide continuing contacts for the elections.

Ze'evi, Ne'eman Resign To Delay Autonomy 'Train'

TA1901103392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1010 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Report by Arye Golan outside the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] Ministers Rehav'am Ze'evi and Yuval Ne'eman have resigned. Ze'evi informed journalists a minute or two ago that he has resigned.

We have the wording of what Ze'evi told the cabinet meeting. He said Moledet did not join the cabinet when it was set up about a year and a half ago, but voted for it and thereby permitted it to be established. He explained that he joined the cabinet despite the public opposition of four ministers, and that the remarks by the four ministers who opposed me did not help the government. Ze'evi continued: I swallowed that self-righteous reception knowing that Israel was facing a war. I was appointed minister without portfolio, although there was a possibility of exploiting my experience and ability in the fields of security and public administration. I did not argue because we were facing a war.

It will be remembered that he joined just before the Gulf war broke out.

In the coalition agreement we signed, Ze'evi said in the cabinet, we clearly expressed our reservations about the basic guidelines based on the Camp David accords and our firm stand on the integrity of the country. Ze'evi reviewed the period of his membership in the government and noted that he was appointed a member of eight ministerial committees and tried to participate in their meetings. He said he was disappointed with the attitude of the ministers and the cabinet: It was embarrassing and depressing to participate in the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah Affairs, which has 17 members, because only two—Minister Sharon, the chairman, and myself—participated, while the frustrated and surprised representatives of 80 volunteer organizations came to present us with their activities and requests. I will not add anything about the fiasco of immigrant absorption.

He reviewed his entire period in the cabinet. Later he explained the main issue that led to his resignation: Mr. Shamir, who heads the government, is loyal to Eretz Yisra'el, and I believe we must strengthen him in the face of the heavy pressures from abroad and inside Israel, and even from the cabinet. We knew that the cabinet is a prisoner of miserable basic guidelines based on the Camp David accords, which were established by former Prime Minister Menahem Begin. We did not participate in the kitchen politics that determined the basic guidelines and Israel's tactics in the Madrid conference and the Washington talks, because we believed that there are people alert to see that the autonomy disaster does not come about. That was the situation until it became clear that our delegation in Washington presented a motion for the agenda with a clause detailing Palestinian self-government. We then realized we had failed and that the train had left the station.

The three-page letter concludes by saying: We decided to resign from the cabinet so that we would not be a partner to the crime and in the hope that our resignation would create a government-parliamentary crisis that would delay the autonomy train from speeding ahead. I did not look for, and did not find, perks of power in the cabinet; I viewed it as a mission. Now I know it is a mission that failed. I did not succeed in sharpening the battle against the intifadah, and I did not halt the so-called peace process along the Camp David lines. I am therefore resigning from the cabinet, following a decision by my movement. I wish to thank the prime minister, the ministers, the cabinet secretary, and the ministry employees, for their patience, encouragement, and instruction.

He said farewell with the sentence: I hope that you make good decisions and manage to look after Eretz Yisra'el for the people of Israel.

Ne'eman Prefers Election to Government Collapse

TA1901105392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1016 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Interview with Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, by political correspondent Natan Gutman outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Gutman] Good day, Minister Ne'eman, we are live on the air.

[Ne'eman] Hello.

[Gutman] Is your resignation now official and final?

[Ne'eman] Yes, I delivered the letter at 1200 [1000 GMT], so at 1200 on Tuesday I will cease to bear responsibility for the two ministries I headed.

[Gutman] But you sat in the cabinet session for several hours?

[Ne'eman] That was because the issue of our resignation only came up after today's security and political briefings. After that, I also briefed the cabinet on the findings of the commission on the electric corporation's functioning during the storm.

[Gutman] Did today's security briefings fail to satisfy you that there has still not been any talk of autonomy?

[Ne'eman] They did not shed any new information on what has already been reported in the media.

[Gutman] Minister Ne'eman, next Monday's no-confidence motion will be the coalition's first test. How will the Tehiya vote?

[Ne'eman] We have still not decided. We will consider the matter objectively. On the one hand, we do not want the government to be vulnerable to pressure and blackmail by the Labor Party. On the other hand, however, we also must responsibly consider the ramifications of the government's collapse at this stage. We shall examine the situation and come to a conclusion.

[Gutman] As things stand now, do you prefer that the government fall or would you rather seek an agreed upon date for early elections?

[Ne'eman] I think that we would prefer an agreed upon date for early elections.

[Gutman] Thank you, Minister Ne'eman.

MK on Etinger Anti-Bush Document 'Scandal'

TA1801174792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Burg has said that he has a document written by Yoram Etinger, a minister in Israel's Embassy in Washington in charge of contacts with the U.S. Congress, in which Etinger suggests steps for the U.S. Jewish community to take against President Bush because of his stand on the issue of loan guarantees.

MK Burg told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that this document was issued last week and sent to all the Israeli missions in the United States. It contains a plan to make use of the Republican Party and the Jewish community against President Bush. According to Etinger, the centers of power in the U.S. ruling party have reservations about Bush's policy on this matter, which could be used for the benefit of the State of Israel.

MK Burg believes that the document is an unprecedented scandal, and he urges the foreign minister to recall Etinger immediately.

Foreign Ministry—'No Knowledge'

TA1801202592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Excerpt] At present, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has no knowledge of a document disseminated by Minister in Washington Yoram Etinger to Israel's missions in the United States which, according to Knesset Member Avraham Burg, contains a plan for acts against President Bush because of his stand against the loan guarantees.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry told our political correspondent Arye Golan that if Minister Etinger indeed issued such a document, he did so on his own accord and without authorization. The sources added that if the story is true, it will be examined thoroughly and disciplinary steps may be taken against Etinger. [passage omitted]

Interpretation of Document 'Incorrect'

TA1901060192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Labor Knesset Member Avraham Burg says he has a document written by Yoram Etinger, who is in charge of relations with the American Congress in Israel's embassy in Washington, in which Etinger proposes that the Jewish community operate against President Bush because of his attitude on the loan guarantees. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

Etinger responded to the controversy by saying he had never called for incitement against the Administration or confrontation between the Jewish community and the Administration. He had called for a special effort of the Jewish community to obtain the guarantees. Etinger said the document had been written to his superiors at the embassy and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, and he had not issued any side papers to Israeli officers. Also, Knesset Member Burg had not clarified the matter with him, and his interpretation was incorrect.

1st 'Official' Data on Construction in Territories

TA2101071192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jan 92 p A1

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[Excerpt] The official Construction and Housing Ministry data, which was compiled at the request of the U.S. Administration, shows a substantial increase in the volume of construction in the territories compared with the previous two years. This data, which is the first official information about government investment in the territories, is due to be formally released in the coming days.

The number of construction starts in settlements stood at 6,435 in the first nine months of 1991 versus 1,820 in all of 1990 and 1,410 in 1989. In January through September 1991, the number of construction starts stood at 3,700 in Tel Aviv and 4,730 in Jerusalem.

The total number of construction starts in Israel and the territories for the said period stood at 62,320, and the rate of investment in construction in the territories is therefore 10.33 percent of the total construction within and beyond the Green Line. In 1990, construction starts in the territories constituted a mere 4 percent of the total number of starts. Most of the construction in the territories in 1991 was carried out in the framework of the Construction and Housing Ministry's building plan, while most of the construction in 1990 was done by private bodies.

The data shows that in 1991, the main building effort in the territories was made in the third quarter. In July through September, the number of construction starts stood at 3,550 compared with 2,055 in April through June and 830 in January through March.

The number of housing units completed in the first nine months of 1991 stood at 1,490 compared with 1,250 in 1990 and 1,280 in 1989. The pace of public construction was significantly accelerated in the third quarter of the year, presumably as a result of incentives offered to building contractors by the Construction and Housing Ministry.

In January to September, a total of 12,985 housing units in the territories were in an advanced state of construction—almost five times the number in 1990 and in 1989. Out of this number of housing units, 8,595 were part of the Construction and Housing Ministry's plan. [passage omitted]

100 Mobile Homes Brought To West Bank Settlement

TA1901115192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] From Bet El it is reported that many mobile homes are being brought there for an unclear reason. Gil Litman reports from there:

We know that the settlers are not trying to hide why the mobile homes were brought here. [sentence as heard] The new mobile home site, a very large site of 45 mobile homes, arose late last week in the settlement of Bet El and is designed to house 100 new families. I am now standing on the outskirts of the mobile home site at the northern ridge of the settlement. Forty-five homes are being set up right now while on the other side of the wadi another 50 homes were positioned several weeks ago and are already housing families. Half of the 45 mobile homes are already on the ground, and half are still on trailers. In the coming hours all of them will be ready to absorb new families at Bet El. The project for the 100 mobile homes is being funded and backed by the Construction and Housing Ministry.

Judges Reject Deportation Appeals of 7 Gazans

TA2101080392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jan 92 pp A1, A9

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The advisory military committees at the Southern Command have decided that the seven prospective Gaza Strip deportees will be deported. The judges who heard the prospective deportees' appeals advised Southern Command Commander Matan Vilna'i yesterday of their decision to reject the appeals of the seven.

With regard to the prospective deportee who is affiliated with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the judges hesitated whether the order against him should be implemented.

HA'ARETZ is herewith publishing for the first time the contents of the decisions of the advisory committees, chaired by Colonel Eli Sicherman and Col. Shuqi Halevi:

With regard to prospective deportee Khadr 'Atiyyah Khadr Muhjiz, a Hamas activist from the Jabalyah refugee camp, the judges had doubts because of insufficient evidence and because of the fact that Muhjiz was released from prison five months ago. Before deciding on his deportation, Col. Halevi consulted with the commander of the Southern Command. The judges' explanation of the decision to deport asserts that "he is a religious proselytizer and a habitual agitator."

With regard to Marwan Hasan Muhammad 'Afanah, from Gaza, the judges stated that he is a key activist in the Gaza Strip branch of Fatah. In connection with this activity, he was placed under administrative detention by three separate orders, but returned to his activity after release from detention.

The judges determined that while under detention, he was a member of the Fatah leadership—even one of the principal leaders—in the Qezi'ot detention facility. The judges stated that 'Afanah is one of the Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip and is responsible for the operations of the popular committees in the Strip.

'Afanah told the court that if deported, he will return to the region "in any possible way in order to die in Palestine."

With regard to Ihab Muhammad 'Ali al-Ashqar, from Gaza, the judges concluded that he is a central activist in the Gaza Strip branch of Fatah. When interrogated in August 1982, he admitted to having recruited activists for Fatah, for which he was fined and given a suspended sentence of two and a half years. A restrictive order was issued against him banning his entry into the West Bank. Despite that, he remained a Fatah and al-Shabibah member throughout his administrative detention.

The judges further stated that he was a member in the joint headquarters of Gaza Strip organizations and participated in the distribution of leaflets calling for confrontations with the Army. The judges concluded that he was a key activist in the Fatah infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, as well as a member in the central committee of Gaza prison inmates.

The judges determined that Sami Abu-Samahdanah, from Rafah, is a key Fatah activist in the Gaza Strip. He was detained in June 1981 and admitted to being a

member of the organization. After his release from prison in 1984, he was a prominent activist in the al-Shabibah organization in the Gaza Strip. He was arrested as a result of his activity and has served six administrative detentions since 1985. The judges stipulated that despite his administrative detentions, Abu-Samahdanah continued engaging in terror activity against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and continues this activity today as well from inside the Qezi'ot detention center.

The judges added that he speaks fluent Hebrew and that he rejected all the overt evidence presented in the deliberations. Abu-Samahdanah admitted that he holds a senior status in the Qezi'ot detention facility and that he has defended the rights of inmates, but according to him, this activity is not connected to Fatah. The judges noted that Abu-Samahdanah reported that he supports the peace process and that deportation for him would be a death sentence. He warned that if he is deported, he will return to the region armed.

Col. Ze'ev She'alti'el, commander of the Qezi'ot prison, testified on behalf of Abu-Samahdanah. He stated that Abu- Samahdanah is a "good and worthwhile person." The judges stipulated that "with all due respect to the Qezi'ot prison commander," they do not agree with his testimony because he does not have the information the security authorities have gathered. Therefore, despite She'alti'el's favorable testimony, they decided to recommend that Abu-Samahdanah be deported.

Regarding prospective deportee Ahmad Hasan 'Abdallah Abu-Sayf, from Dayr al-Balah, the judges determined that he is a central Fatah activist. He was detained in 1975 and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for membership in a terror organization. He was released in 1985 in the Jibril prisoner exchange deal.

The judges stipulated that he was placed under administrative detention four times and was connected to the activity of the Fatah popular committees. In his testimony, Abu-Sayf claimed that after he was released in the Jibril deal, the security forces detained him on numerous occasions, telling him that he was being detained to complete his 20-year term. His appeal was rejected as well, and the judges recommended that he be deported.

Defense Dealings With France 'Insignificant'

TA2101114492 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Jan 91 p 3

[Report from Paris by Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] Israeli sources in Paris yesterday reacted to a report in the British weekly THE OBSERVER, according to which defense cooperation between Israel and France has been renewed in view of Israel's intention to reduce its dependence on U.S. arms.

The sources said that contacts with the French defense industries have indeed been renewed recently, but added that their scope is insignificant and that no practical deal is in the works.

At the same time, the sources stressed the significant development in cooperation between the two countries in terms of scientific research and development and joint initiatives in various fields, including electronics.

The sources noted that the transition from U.S. to French military technologies requires basic and long-term changes in the armament structure of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. As far as they know, no decision on this has been made.

The issue of military cooperation was not raised during French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' most recent visit to Israel—not even in his meeting with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. At the same time, Arens did renew the invitation to the French defense minister to visit Israel.

Prime Minister Confers With PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN1901135292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office today PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and transport minister; Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, minister of foreign affairs; and al- Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Jordan, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they reviewed the stages covered by the peace march as well as the recent bilateral talks in Washington. They also discussed the multilateral conference scheduled to be held at the end of this month, in light of the invitations extended to the parties participating in the peace conference.

'Abd-Rabbuh Urges Coordination

JN1901164192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpts] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh at the Prime Ministry at noon today. [passage omitted]

Emerging from the meeting, Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh told our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] I passed along a message pertaining to current developments from the Palestinian leadership to his excellency the prime minister and the brothers in Jordan with special reference to the multilateral conference slated for Moscow in late January. We stressed the need for coordination and consultations with our brothers here in Jordan with regard to all aspects of the peace process. In our assessment of the recent Washington talks, we noted that the Palestinian and Jordanian teams within our joint delegation had maintained a united front and an advanced state of coordination and that we had conducted ourselves likewise with the other brotherly Arab delegations. We also emphasized the need to develop coordination in the future, focusing on matters of substance, not least of which is a cessation to settlement building. We will have further consultations in the next few days. [end recording]

Minister on Syria, Peace Conference 'Opportunity'

JN2101131092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti, acting minister of information and labor minister, has stressed that Jordan believes that the multilateral conference provides an opportunity to discuss all future expectations, possibilities, and available options without relinquishing Arab rights.

He said that the firmness of the Jordanian position and the constant coordination with the Palestinian delegation emphasize Jordan's genuine desire to work for a just peace and stresses the importance of Jordan's role in the process.

Answering reporters' questions on whether attempts to convince Syria to attend the multilateral conference have failed, he replied that his recent visit to Syria was a private one and was not related to any political mission. However, he did say that although the Jordanian and the Syrian positions were different, both agree on the timing of the conference, rejecting any form of normalization of Arab-Israeli relations before progress is realized in the bilateral negotiations.

Al-Kabariti said Jordan believes that Jordanian-Syrian relations are distinguished and that efforts will continue toward increased coordination and cooperation, with the aim of reaching the aspired strategic integration.

Government Reportedly Bans Iraqi Press

LD1801183192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1149 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Amman, 18 Jan KUNA—KUNA has learned that Jordanian authorities have decided to ban the Iraqi press from Jordan.

Diplomatic sources told KUNA that the reason could be the insults to some Arab leaders that these newspapers contain, particularly to the leaders of Syria, which has special relations with Jordan, and recent attacks by the Iraqi press on the peace process. Considering that Jordan is one of the parties in the peace process, this has been a matter that has caused embarrassment to the Jordanian leadership.

These sources also added that what this press carries against the peace process is a clear attack on, and criticism of, the policy of the king of Jordan.

The sources expressed the belief that this course of action was taken at the personal request of the king because the only Iraqi magazines that will be allowed to enter are those for which the decision has been made to be referred to the censor, who deletes a great deal.

Russia Asks Buwayz To Reconsider Moscow Talks

NC1801152392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Russian Ambassador to Lebanon Gennadiy Viktorovich Ilichev handed Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz a written message today from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. In the message, Kozyrev asks Lebanon to reconsider its reservations about attending the multilateral talks in Moscow, saying that the talks will be procedural in nature. The Russian ambassador spoke to reporters following the meeting:

[Begin recording] I would first like to tell you that I gave his excellency, the foreign minister, a message from Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev about developments regarding the peace conference, particularly the procedural meeting scheduled to be held in Moscow at the end of the month. We understand that when the Lebanese Government makes a decision it does so based on national interests and its responsibilities. We view the Lebanese decision in this light.

The procedural meeting scheduled in Moscow at the end of the month will focus on joint action and in parallel through joint committees and multilateral talks [sentence as heard]. We believe that these two parallel processes will influence each other and will contribute toward the success of the peace conference. We cannot imagine that progress in the multilateral talks can be made without similar progress in the bilateral talks. We believe, however, that it is high time to find a procedural framework for the multilateral talks. Thus, the primary objective of the procedural meeting in Moscow is to examine practical ways to begin the multilateral talks. Substantive regional matters will not be discussed in Moscow.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is a great responsiblity and honor for us to host the Moscow meeting. I would like to stress that we will do our best to make it a practical and tangible step toward attaining a just and lasting Middle East peace. Thank you. [end recording]

Buwayz—Lebanon 'Will Not' Participate

NC1801190092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today received a message from his Russian counterpart asking Lebanon to take part in the Moscow talks. Buwayz added that the message, delivered by Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev, justifies the request by saying that the conference will be procedural and preparatory in nature.

Despite the Russian request and explanation, Buwayz added, Lebanon will not take part in the negotiations. Buwayz said that he told the Russian ambassador that Lebanon is wary of Israel's attempt to divide the Arab ranks and of the danger this implies for the peace conference.

Had the United States abided by its promises, he said, it would have persuaded the Israelis to stay in Washington for two more days and would have made reassuring statements about the future of the conference.

Buwayz was asked about Jordanian and Palestinian participation. He said: The information available neither confirms the participation of the Palestinians nor does it indicate that the Jordanian decision is final. Buwayz, however, stated that if the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations participate, Israel's attempt to divide Arab ranks would have been successful.

Buwayz said that the Lebanese negotiating team will stay in Washington for another day or two to hold consultations. He said that he will meet the Lebanese team in Paris on 20 January before he goes to Morocco.

Buwayz To Demand Talks Postponement

NC2001124092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Dispatch By Amal Ilyas]

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Lebanon shortly after 1100 today on a week-long tour that will take him to France, Morocco, and Romania. Before leaving for the airport he talked to reporters about the importance of Lebanon's participation in the Jerusalem Committee meeting, the reasons for his visit to Romania, and his scheduled meeting with members of the Egyptian delegation in Paris this evening:

[Begin Buwayz recording] The meeting of the Jerusalem Committee this year is of a special nature. It could serve as a preparatory step for a comprehensive or a unified Arab stand on the future of Jerusalem. What is particularly special about this year's meeting is that it might herald a unified Arab position on Jerusalem at the international conference.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is the significance of the visit to Romania? There are economic ties.

[Buwayz] The visit to Romania is part of our bilateral relations and is not primarily economic in nature. It includes issues that concern the Defense Ministry, such as spare parts for some Soviet-made tanks, issues that concern the Education Ministry, such as scholarships, and issues that concern the Ministry of Economy and Trade, such as bilateral trade. The visit is a kind of exploration of the situation in the region in light of the new political situation there and following the liberalization of the economy. [end recording]

Asked about Arab participation, particularly Lebanese, in the multilateral talks, the foreign minister said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] It seems that the Palestinian delegation has some promising information. We do not know what would justify their entry into these talks. Our information does not allow us to join these talks as no tangible or serious progress has been made. If the brother

Palestinians have some other considerations or more optimistic information, I congratulate them.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sources say that the multilateral talks could be postponed because of the stands of some Arab countries. Do you think they will be postponed?

[Buwayz] We demand the postponement of these talks until tangible progress is made in the bilateral talks. Naturally, we will welcome any decision postponing these talks. [end recording]

Karami Departs for Damascus Consultations

NC1801152592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami left for Damascus today to hold talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on Lebanese and regional developments, particularly the issue of filling the administrative positions and the results of the Arab- Israeli talks.

Personnel, Peace Talks Discussed

NC1901063192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Karami has described his visit to Damascus as part of the coordination and cooperation between Lebanon and Syria on the Middle East peace process and Lebanese domestic developments.

Sources close to the prime minister said Karami's meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam focused on filling administrative posts and the results of the latest round of peace talks.

Karami Returns, Outlines Talks

NC1901075792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has returned from Damascus, where he held talks yesterday with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Karami achieved positive results regarding government solidarity, ending the boycott [of cabinet by some ministers], and the cabinet bylaw.

The report adds that Karami discussed three main issues in Damascus yesterday:

1. The administrative appointments issue. Prime Minister Karami regards President Ilyas al-Hirawi's policy on this issue as inconsistent with his own policy. This subject was raised during the recent Lebanese-Syrian meeting, during which advice was given that the vacant positions quickly be filled.

2. The cabinet bylaw issue. Karami had expressed reservations on this issue on the grounds that it encroaches on his powers and runs contrary to the Constitution. Some ministerial committee circles tasked with drawing up the bylaw hold Minister Michel al-Murr responsible. Minister al-Murr, who has been charged with formulating the final draft of the bylaw, has given himself basic powers in his capacity as deputy prime minister.

3. The issue of ministerial solidarity and the need for coordination among the president, Chamber of Deputies speaker, and the prime minister.

Upon his return from Damascus yesterday, Prime Minister Karami said that his talks with Khaddam were positive regarding the establishment of the bylaw and its inclusion on the agenda of the next cabinet meeting.

Birri Explains Demand for Cabinet Bylaws

NC2001130592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has explained in a press interview that his demand for cabinet bylaws has not been directed against Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and that his insistence on this demand was motivated by his desire to safeguard the interests of the people and the cabinet, in particular, without challenging anyone. He said if agreement is reached on new draft bylaws during today's meeting and the draft placed on the agenda of Wednesday's cabinet meeting, he and Minister Junblatt will attend the meeting.

In another interview, Birri said he still insists on fulfillment of the three demands he made before returning to the cabinet. These are: First, specifying the agenda topics; second, allowing time to convey decisions and commitment to implement them; and third, limiting the authority to relieve ministers of their posts to the cabinet. He added that the bylaws he is demanding do not preclude the listing of urgent issues on the cabinet's agenda, but prevent the appointment of an official or amending decisions without placing the issue on the agenda at least one or two weeks ahead of time.

Islamic Resistance on 'Violent Clash' in South

'Severe' Enemy Casualties

NC1901110292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has declared that one of its groups surrounded and stormed a position held by the occupation forces in the town of Tayr Harfa in the western sector in the south at dawn today. A violent clash with the forces manning the position ensued.

In a statement, the resistance said that the occupation forces in (al-Harduf) and Rashman positions participated in the confrontation, which continued for approximately 30 minutes. The occupation forces sustained several casualties in the confrontation.

2 SLA Troops Killed in Blast

TA1901110392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] In South Lebanon's security zone the mukhtar of the village of Tayr Harfa was killed and two women were slightly injured when two large explosive charges blew up. The village is situated some five km north of the Israeli border. Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, notes that two SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were killed over the weekend when explosives blew up in the security zone.

SLA Tightens Blockade on 5 Shiite Villages

TA2001175892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] is tightening its blockade on five Shiite villages north of the security zone. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that SLA soldiers fired shells from heavy guns and artillery at people and vehicles trying to leave the villages. The Lebanese Red Crescent claimed that the SLA is preventing supplies from entering the blockaded villages. Due to the shelling, the UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] command has restricted the movement of its soldiers in the area, who are moving about only in armored vehicles.

Rshaf Status 'Extremely Tense'

NC2101090992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The situation in Rshaf is causing concern. Its approaches have been blocked with earth barriers and its residents have not been able to secure medicine or food for the past three weeks. A UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] source described the situation in the central and western sectors as extremely tense. He said that the Israeli forces are shooting at anything that moves, including UN forces. The source said that the villages of Tibnin, Haddathah, Yatar, and Bra'shit [words indistinct].

The enemy forces yesterday intensified their attacks with large- caliber machine guns against 'Ayta al-Jabal, Haddathah, Haris, Yatar, Bra'shit, and Tibnin, preventing the movement of residents and creating difficult conditions, including extreme difficulty in securing food. Furthermore, this all the schools and shops in the villages have been forced to close.

The village residents have appealed to state officials, humanitarian institutions, and UNIFIL to intervene to stop the occupation forces' attacks and extend assistance.

An estimated 300 shells have fallen on these villages since last Friday, wounding two people in Haris, two in Kafra, four in Yatar, and one in Haddathah. They also damaged 30 houses in Haris, 4 houses and a school in Tibnin, 7 houses in Yatar, 2 houses in Kafra, and 10 houses and a school in Haddathah.

The occupation forces are continuing to besiege Rshaf for the third week, preventing residents from leaving.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has revealed that Israel has added Rshaf to the border strip by closing the road linking it with Haddathah and opening a road linking it with Bayt Yahun. He noted that Israeli shelling of the villages has led to the displacement of 80 percent of the people. Birri criticized the state's disregard of what is happening in the south and asked: Doesn't such a thing warrant calling a UN Security Council meeting?

Bombs Explode Near SLA, Israeli Patrols

NC2101093892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] An explosive charge went off as a South Lebanese Army patrol was moving near Rshaf, in the western sector, causing no casualties. The Voice of the South radio reported that a second explosive charge was set off by remote control as an Israeli patrol was moving in the eastern sector of the border strip. The explosion caused no casualties. The radio added that during a subsequent search of the area, the Israeli Army discovered two more bombs and dismantled them.

Barbed Wire Erected Between SLA, UNIFIL

NC2101130092 Paris AFP in English 1226 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Jan 21 (AFP)—Israeli troops and their allies in the South Lebanon Army (SLA) strung barbed wire through a southern Lebanese village Tuesday to cut themselves off from UN forces, security sources reported.

Nepalese units serving with the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) control the northern sector of the village of Rshaf while the SLA is deployed in the southern part, the sources said.

SLA units have been shelling the outskirts of the village for more than a month, forcing many civilians to flee and leaving only 95 residents in their homes.

Shiite militia leader Nabih Birri charged that Israel was trying to annex Rshaf as part of its "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

As Israeli and SLA troops began to put up the barbed wire division, eight Katyusha rockets fell near an SLA position inside the town.

An explosive device later blew up at the same site, causing no casualties, security sources added.

The pro-Iranian Hizballah movement has claimed many recent attacks against the SLA, including a remote-controlled bomb explosion Friday near Rshaf that killed two of the Israeli-backed fighters.

Hizballah: Prisoner Swap 'No Longer Possible'

NC2001180492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Hizballah has said that the exchange of Israeli soldiers with those detained in Israel is no longer possible. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli accused Israel of obstructing the exchange process by making impossible demands.

Hizballah's al-Tufayli on Algeria, Peace Talks

NC1901134392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Hizballah held a celebration in Yuhmur township in western al-Biqa' this morning to mark the birth of Imam 'Ali. The celebration was attended by a number of party officials, in addition to local key figures and citizens.

Speaking at the celebration, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said: There is an Arab-international alliance to confront the Islamic Salvation Front, whose only crime is being Muslim. He said what is taking place in Algeria represents blatant and impudent Western intervention.

He contended that the coup in Algeria was French with an Algerian cover. He further explained that France has eliminated one agent to replace him with another.

Commenting on the cabinet decision on reorganizing the media, al- Tufayli said the decision was taken because talking about Islam is prohibited in Lebanon. When the decision generated growing criticism, the regime retreated in humility, he said.

Touching on the peace talks, al-Tufayli said: They say the talks have failed. The truth is that they are successful, because matters are taking their charted course. He asserted that the goal of these talks is not the security strip, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights, but rather to reach peace and conciliation between Israel and its neighbors through economic, cultural, tourism, and oil relations. This will ultimately culminate in normalization and full bilateral relations.

Al-Tufayli added: If Syria does not take part in multilateral talks, it will be isolated and lose all relations with Arabs.

On exchanging POW's and hostages, al-Tufayli asserted that no POW's will be exchanged and that the entire issue is mere talk. So far, there has not been any dialogue on the issue, he said.

PLO Factions Agree To Reconsider Strategy

NC2001092392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Shafiq al-Hut has stated that the PLO is not planning to return to its status before departing Lebanon in 1982. He said the PLO wants Lebanon to treat Palestinians the way Palestinian refugees are treated by other Arab countries.

In a press statement, al-Hut stressed the need to reconsider the strategy of armed struggle in Lebanese territories, because the previous stand proved futile.

Our correspondent in Sidon has reported that PLO factions in Sidon agreed to put an end to the ongoing security violations in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. Our correspondent quoted a responsible source in the Palestinian National Action command as saying that the agreement is based on the need to enhance the role of armed struggle so that patrols can be maintained day and night to watch for violations. The source stressed that this measure took effect yesterday afternoon.

The agreement follows a series of intensive meetings held by the Palestinian factions to discuss the security situation in 'Ayn al- Hulwah following the recent murders and assassinations. Our correspondent reports that extreme caution prevails in 'Ayn al- Hulwah camp in light of the continued absence of two persons, Muhammad Diyab and Tariq Qamar, despite the reconciliation agreement. The correspondent added that a number of Fatah officials left the camp for fear of a renewed bout of assassinations, kidnappings, and other violations.

Fadlallah—Islam Does Not Call For Violence

NC1901110692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] In a lecture delivered on the birthday of Imam 'Ali today, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah stated that Islam does not call for violence, as the media of the arrogant world is trying to portray about Muslims. Islam, he said, acts as part of jihad.

Fadlallah indicated that intelligence services act to exploit the disputes among the Muslims and that some Arab and Islamic regimes condone such practices.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Musa Visits

Visit Previewed

JN1801124892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will discuss with Syrian officials the current status of the peace process in light of the recent round of talks held in Washington between the Arab delegations and Israel. According to well-informed Egyptian sources, Musa will also discuss the Syrian position vis-a-vis the multilateral negotiations to be held in Moscow at the end of this month. Syria had informed Cairo of its refusal to participate in these talks in the wake of the failure of the bilateral negotiations held recently in Washington. Egypt, meanwhile, believes that there is a need to participate in these talks, provided that they deal only with procedural issues and that the discussion of major issues is linked with the degree of progress achieved in the bilateral talks.

The Egyptian minister will also convey to President al-Asad a letter from President Mubarak on Egypt's position vis-a-vis this issue. Musa will discuss with the Syrian foreign minister the issues that are to be discussed by Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad during a visit President al-Asad might make to Cairo in the next few days.

Musa Brings Mubarak Message

JN1801093292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Damascus this morning. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and various embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, 'Amr Musa said that during this visit he will hand President Hafiz al-Asad a letter from his brother President Husni Mubarak. He added that the objective of his visit is to hold consultations and talks with Syrian officials on developments in the region and in the peace process.

Al-Shar', Musa Meet

JN1801180592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jan (SANA)—An official round of talks was held this morning between the Syrian side, headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Egyptian side, headed by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister, and Taha al-Khayrat, head of the Arab Homeland Department. For Egypt, the meeting was attended by Ambassador Wajih Hamdi, head of the Arab East Department; Jihad Madi, adviser to the Egyptian foreign minister; and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks focused on evaluating the outcome of the Washington bilateral talks and future prospects for the peace process. The two sides also exchanged views and held coordination consultations on a host of issues that are of concern to the Arab nation.

Al-Asad: No Moscow Talks

NC1801174192 Paris AFP in English 1636 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus, Jan 18 (AFP) - Syria on Saturday again refused to attend multilateral Middle East peace talks scheduled later this month in Moscow, despite attempts by Egypt to persuade it to change its position. President Hafiz al-Asad told visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa of Syria's "wish to maintain its known position on the multilateral talks," presidential spokesman Jubran Kuryyah told AFP. "Israel has become more intransigent than ever," Kuryyah quoted al-Asad as saying.

Musa delivered a message—whose contents were not revealed—from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and also met Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' before leaving for home with a reply for the Egyptian leader.

A well-informed source said Musa tried to persuade the Syrian officials to send a delegation to Moscow, where multilateral talks on regional issues are scheduled for January 28 and 29.

Syria refuses to take part in the multilateral talks since no progress was made during bilateral negotiations. Damascus considers that the outcome of three rounds of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Madrid and Washington has been "negative" and a Syrian negotiator said Thursday in the U.S. capital: "We are going around in circles."

Egypt, which did not take part in the bilaterals, will attend the multilateral talks, which are to focus on water, regional disarmament and economic development.

Al-Asad, Musa Meet; Musa Departs

JN1801172092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Egyptian ambassador in Damascus Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi.

Musa relayed to his excellency the president a message from His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt. For his part, his excellency the president asked the Egyptian minister to convey a reply message.

The talks dealt with the regional state of affairs and the progress of the peace process. During the meeting, his excellency the president indicated that Israel is now more intransigent in its resistance to peace than it was ever before. He affirmed Syria's adherence to its well-known position on the multilateral talks.

Musa left Damascus this evening. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

Minister Praises Relations, Urges Peace Talks

NC1801130292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1036 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has praised the firm and distinguished ties between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that their constant contacts demonstrate their positive relations and coordination on Arab issues and bilateral ties. He stressed that every meeting between Syria and Egypt serves Arab interests.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Salman stressed the need to achieve progress in the second round of the peace talks, meaning Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territory, so the delegations can proceed to the third phase of the talks. Moving to the third phase in the absence of progress will not serve the Arab cause nor will it liberate occupied Arab land. It would constitute a further concession to Israel on top of the concessions already made. Israel continues to seek Arab concessions, prompting it to hold onto occupied Arab land. Israel has not said or done anything during the first stage of negotiations to indicate its desire for peace and it has still not conceded that it is occupying Arab territory.

Salman asserted that the Arab right to demand liberation of its land has become clear and it is better understood than ever before, particularly by the U.S. Administration and the EC. These countries represent the Security Council members that passed resolutions condemning Israeli measures and actions in the occupied territories and calling on Israel to withdraw according to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He pointed out that this international understanding and unanimity have not been achieved since the inception of the state of Israel. This is the first time the Security Council has unanimously passed a resolution condemning Israel for its repressive measures in the occupied territories and deporting citizens from their homes. This resolution gives Arabs strength and should make them proud to continue the struggle to obtain their legitimate rights and evict Israel from occupied Arab land.

Responding to a question on the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and whether it means the ice has thawed between them, Salman said that the pan-Arab issue is more important than personal positions and bilateral ties. Any such meeting is aimed at serving the pan-Arab cause. He noted that Arab leaders hold bilateral meetings, mini-summits, or summits whenever necessary because fast-breaking events require coordination.

On the Damascus Declaration, Salman said: We all hoped that the declaration would constitute a nucleus for joint Arab action through the Arab League and not outside it. The motive behind this declaration was to address the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. We had hoped that this declaration would play an important role and be the basis for relations among member states. We hoped it would enable us to bring Arabs together and close their ranks and deliver the Arab people from the psychological effects of Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait. He said that there was great hope that this declaration would play a more effective role than it did but Arabs always make decisions according to the stage they are passing through.

On Syria's demand that Iran play a basic role in any Gulf security system, Salman said that Syria has never adopted a unilateral position or made a unilateral decision in the region. Syria always works through Arab consensus and serves regional interests. Syria always acts to coordinate with other Arab countries and never adopts stands opposing theirs.

Regarding Syria's efforts to achieve a rapprochement between Egypt and Iran, Salman said that these matters need time and time is on the side of improving ties. He stressed that improving and strengthening relations among Arab countries and between Gulf countries and Iran will provide Iran with the opportunity to play a real role in supporting Arabs in their battle with Israel and consolidating the Arab position to liberate Jerusalem, because Israel will not agree to establish peace in the region unless it realizes that the Arabs are unified and Muslims stand behind them.

On the presence of various Iraqi opposition groups in Syria and whether Damascus will be the springboard for toppling Saddam Husayn's regime, Salman said that thousands of Iraqi opposition members have lived in Syria since Saddam Husayn assumed power. He said the recent meeting of Iraqi opposition groups in Syria was not the first and will not be the last and that the primary concern of the Iraqi people is to overthrow the dictator.

On the situation in Lebanon, Salman said that the situation has improved significantly. Lebanon now has the infrastructure to run the country but it is going through dire economic straits. Lebanon is working to rebuild the economy and unify the people.

Muhammad Salman participated in the Islamic information ministers conference in Cairo that concluded 16 January and he left Cairo for Damascus yesterday.

Vice President Khaddam Leaves for Iran

JN2001130692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam today left Damascus for Tehran, leading an official delegation on a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran to attend the meetings of the Joint Syrian-Iranian Higher Committee which are scheduled to start today.

The Committee will discuss business on its agenda, including the situation in the regional and international arenas and the multilateral talks and their negative effect on the Arab and Islamic rights. The Committee will also discuss Syrian-Iranian ties and means to bolster them.

Iraqi Opposition Party Urges Toppling Saddam

JN1801181192 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jan (SANA)—The Islamic al-Da'wah Party, an Iraqi opposition group, has affirmed that the Iraqi people are currently living under the worst possible conditions, which include hunger, and epidemics. Repression and suppression are being perpetrated against our Iraqi people by the Iraqi regime.

In a statement issued to mark the first anniversary of the war for the liberation of Kuwait, the party urged all Iraqi opposition groups inside and outside Iraq to close their ranks and shoulder their historic responsibilities in order to topple Saddam Husayn's bloody regime.

Afghanistan

Government Accelerating Switch to Market Economy

BK2101075092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0738 GMT 21 Jan 92

[By Anosh Ahamat]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 21 (AFP)—Taking its cue from the collapse of the Soviet Union and changes in its former republics, the Afghan Government is speeding up the transition to a free market economy by revising obsolete trade laws.

"Everyone in the region is liberalising. We have regained our strategic importance after the collapse of the Soviet Union. We should act now to change the system or we will lose in the economic race," an economist said here.

President Najibollah has said political changes in the region have elevated Afghanistan's "economic and transit role."

The engine of the reforms in Afghanistan is the Economic Advisory Council (EAC), a new think-tank forming a link between the government and the private sector, which is funding the group.

"We want to have a say in the development of economic policies and to act as advocates of free market economy," said Farid Zarif, Afghanistan's former permanent representative to the United Nations and now secretary-general of the EAC.

Although Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaleqyar is the EAC's chairman, Zarif said the organisation was not political.

"The prime minister's presence will help us get through much red tape and get things done efficiently, particularly when the bureaucracy here is very strong," Zarif said.

The EAC has identified some one dozen trade laws that need either amending or repealing as most were enforced during the 1978 communist takeover of power in Afghanistan.

Zarif said three laws on foreign and domestic private investments, on insurance companies and on money and banking had already been drafted and would be presented to parliament by a ministerial council for enactment.

"Under the revised investment laws, foreign countries can invest with ownership of 100 percent of the shares. Earlier foreigners were entitled to 59 percent and the government had 41 percent of the shares," he said.

Zarif said the new insurance laws permitted the establishment of private firms.

Najibollah said many more of the the country's laws would also be changed in "line with the principles of free market economy."

The EAC's programme for moving towards a free market system began last year when the government accepted its suggestions to end the state monopoly on imports.

"We want to break up the monopoly of the government in the economy. The idea is not to rebel but to facilitate the free interaction of market forces," said Zarif. He said the EAC wanted to end state subsidies for services enjoyed mainly by the higher income groups.

"It is only those with higher incomes who consume more electricity. The lower class has access only to a radio or a heating appliance," Zarif said, adding that the EAC was not yet advocating ending subsidies to government workers, who [will] be unable to adjust to life without coupons.

An estimated 300,000 government servants receive food coupons, which also enable them to obtain free kerosene, wheat, sugar and tea each month. But a leading importer here described the reforms as "nothing new."

"We always had a free market. Even when the communists were here, the system of free trade thrived. Of course, the laws did not work...but the free market worked, the government is trying to make propaganda out of these laws," he said.

Bangladesh

Influx of Burmese Muslim Refugees Exceeds 60,000

BK1801131292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Tents are being set up at (Tuchiapalam) in Cox's Bazaar to accommodate thousands of refugees who have fled Myanmar's [Burma] western Arakan Province to escape the military government's atrocities. A medical team is also working among the refugees in addition to medical help being provided by a hospital run by Rabta al-Alam al-Islami [World Muslim League]. The government sanctioned 4 lakh taka and 400 tons of rice and wheat for the refugees Friday.

Meanwhile, influx of Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh continued through (Laikamganj), Goalgaon, Teknaf, and Shahpuri Dweep. More than 60,000 Rohingya refugees have so far entered into Bangladesh.

700 'Suffocated' in Concentration Camps

BK2001080692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 20 (AFP)—Up to 700 Rohingya Moslems have suffocated to death in Burmese concentration camps just across the Bangladesh border, newspapers reported here Monday quoting fleeing refugees.

Burmese troops detained about 3,000 Moslem youths during the past week and crammed them into 10 storehouses in Arakan province, said the Bengali daily RUPALI. The Burmese suspected them of being rebel mujahedeen, said the paper.

It said 500 youths had died of suffocation in the past three days. But the daily paper SANGBAD put the toll at 700 within four days.

SANGBAD also reported that Burmese border troops had shot dead two Rohingya students. It gave no other details.

No independent confirmation of these reports was available.

Rohingya refugees fleeing into Bangladesh were quoted as saying that Burmese troops had launched major offensives against Moslem suspects and separatist groups in Arakan ahead of a January 28 deadline set for rebel mujahedeen to surrender.

They recounted to journalists harrowing tales of killing, torture, rape and persecution by Burmese troops against local ethnic Moslem Rohingyas. They said the Moslems, in a minority in Burma, were being declared illegal residents by the Rangoon military junta and Buddhists from other provinces were being brought in to take over their homes.

The mass circulation daily ITTEFAQ, in a report from the Bangladesh border town of Dhusia Palang, said the influx of Burmese Moslems had "gone up alarmingly" and that their numbers, currently estimated at about 60,000, could top 100,000 within the next few days.

The paper said that some 10,000 Rohingyas who fled their homes in Arakan were now concentrated in bordering jungles and hills and were expected to cross into Bangladesh in a few days.

If the influx continues, Bangladesh could be facing a situation similar to 1978 when about 300,000 Rohingya refugees crossed the border under similar circumstances. They were subsequently repatriated to Burma under bilateral agreements reached between Dhaka and Rangoon at that time.

The English-language daily paper, THE TELEGRAPH, reported a continuing Burmese military build-up in Arakan, renamed by Rangoon as Rakhaine Province. It said "at least 14 battalions of regular Burmese were manning dig-in positions along the frontier, backed by artillery."

In two recent rounds of inconclusive border talks with Dhaka, Rangoon insisted that its troops were fighting separatist rebels inside Burma and were not threatening the Bangladesh border area.

A third round will be held on the Burmese side on January 28, officials here said.

Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw is expected to visit Dhaka early next month.

Ties between Dhaka and Rangoon have deteriorated since an alleged attack by Burmese troops on a Bangladeshi Rifles border outpost December 21 in which four Bangladeshis died, including a soldier.

Bangladesh authorities in Cox's Bazar near the border have started setting up relief camps to cope with the influx of refugees and provide food and medical care. But resources are scarce.

The country is still recovering from the effects of last year's devastating cyclone in which more than 135,000 people died.

Up till now the refugees had been managing on their own, aided chiefly by ethnically related Bangladeshi villagers.

India

UK's Hurd Arrives on Official Visit

Received by Faleiro

BK1501150092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] The British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Mr. Douglas Hurd, says that though the cold war has ended, there are new anxieties to be dealt with. Talking to newsmen at the airport on arrival in New Delhi today, he said that some of the anxieties are, however, over. The visit follows close to the visit of his colleague and the home secretary, Mr. Kenneth Baker, and precedes the visit of Prince Charles slated for next month. He said that Britain is highly impressed over the economic reforms launched by New Delhi and he will hear more about this during his meetings with Indian leaders. On arrival, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, received him at the airport.

Meets Venkataraman

BK1601095292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] The visiting British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Mr. Douglas Hurd, called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] in New Delhi this morning. They discussed a wide range of subjects including international scene and bilateral matters. Mr. Venkataraman spoke about India's relations with its neighbors and stressed the need to preserve secular forces against fundamentalist elements. He said the Indian Government is pursuing a policy of decentralizing power and maintaining the unity and integrity of the country. Referring to Indo-British relations, the president hoped that Britain will continue to take interest in the economic development of the country. The visiting minister said that his government welcomes the liberalized economic policy. These will encourage British investors in coming to India.

Supports Punjab Elections

BK1701161692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Britain will continue to put pressure on Pakistan to end its interference in Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, the British foreign secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, strongly supported the announcement of elections in Punjab and said that those who refuse to participate will be in an indefensible position. He said it will be a great step forward if a similar political process is initiated in Kashmir. Mr. Hurd said that terrorists are the chief violators of human rights and the agreements being finalized between the two countries aim at cutting the access of the terrorists to money and weapons. On the question of human rights, he said that Britain believes in openness in dealing with the allegations of abuses. Welcoming the economic reforms launched by New Delhi, Mr. Hurd said that a large British business delegation will be accompanying Prince Charles during his visit next month to explore investment possibilities. About India's concern on the Dunkel proposal on trade relations, Mr. Hurd said though it can form a basis, compromises are required.

The British foreign secretary said that his country understands India's sensitivity on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] because of developments in Pakistan. He said both India and Britain are opposed to any spread of Islamic fundamentalism to the Asian republics of the former Soviet Union.

Earlier, the British foreign secretary had an hour-long meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, without aides. International terrorism figured prominently at the talks. Both emphasized the need for close international cooperation to deal with the menace. Mr. Rao expressed appreciation for Britain's cooperation in curbing terrorist activities originating from that country. The matter also came up during the talks between Mr. Hurd and the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki. Mr. Solanki told the visiting dignitary that India is being burdened with a costly battle against Pakistan-supported terrorism.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that Mr. Solanki reiterated India's stand on the discriminatory nature of the NPT. He also told Mr. Hurd that India is an open society and is fully aware of the need to protect human rights.

Agreement on Terrorism Reached

BK1601125892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] India and Britain have reached a broad agreement on the extradition treaty and confiscation of properties of those involved in terrorist activities. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that an Indian delegation will shortly leave for the United Kingdom to work out the details and finalize the arrangement on the points discussed during the British home secretary, Mr. Baker's visit to the country earlier this month.

During the meeting between the visiting British foreign secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, and the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi today, Mr. Hurd offered Britain's full support in combating terrorism. Mr. Hurd also appreciated India's strong system for checking human rights violations.

Yeltsin To Visit; New Draft Treaty Finalized

BK2101035292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] India and Russia have agreed in principle not to do anything prejudicial to each other's national security. Official sources in New Delhi said a new friendship and cooperation treaty on this is likely to be signed during President Yeltsin's visit to New Delhi in March this year. The draft of the treaty was discussed during the recent Moscow visit of an Indian delegation led by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit. The draft incorporates some changes in the security clauses of the 1971 Indo-Soviet treaty and provides for a regular consultation between the two countries. The two sides have also understood to have worked out a mechanism to maintain flow of spares for India's defense forces.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Visit

BK2001090692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The Palestine president, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, says the PLO welcomes India's participation in the ongoing West Asia peace talks. Speaking to reporters on his arrival in New Delhi this morning, he said that he will discuss the issue with the Indian leaders. He disclosed that foreign ministers of Arab countries will be meeting about two days to take stock of the latest developments regarding the peace talks. [sentence as heard]

The Palestine president was given a ceremonial welcome on his arrival in the capital. He was received among others by the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, and some of his colleagues.

Major Sikh Parties To Boycott Punjab Elections

BK1701131092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Four factions of the Akali Dal and two other groups today said that they will not be taking part in the Punjab assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Leaders of the (?Badal), Mann, Babbar, and Babab Joginder factions of the Akali Dal and the Manjit and Mehta Chawla groups of the Sikh Student Federation decided upon the move at a meeting in Ludhiana today. Later, in a statement, they said they are of the opinion that elections without finding a solution to the Punjab problem would be

meaningless. The statement was issued to the press by Mr. Prakash Singh Badal in the presence of the leaders of other factions.

Two Missiles Enter Production Stage

BK1901162992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1421 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 19 (AFP)—India's missile development programme has reached the production stage for at least two missiles which are expected to come into service this year, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Sunday.

A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, a senior defence scientist, was quoted as saying that the "Prithvi" (Earth) and "Trishul" (Trident) missiles were now undergoing trials before being handed over to the armed forces.

Kalam said Prithvi, a surface-to-surface missile, had been tested successfully twice.

The surface-to-air missile Trishul had completed six tests, Kalam said.

Commentary Welcomes U.S. Military Cooperation

BK2101111492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1010 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Bhram Dutt Commentary]

[Text] The prospect of greater openness in the relationship between defense forces of India and the United States and India's defense in general as mentioned by the Indian defense minister in an interview is welcomed. This is a part of changing pattern of the India-U.S. ties. The relations between the two countries are warming up, especially since 1990, as can be seen in the attitude of the Indian public toward the United States. The implications of the end of the cold war, the changes of the East-West policies, the present difficulties of the former Soviet states and new possibilities for international consensus have brought the two countries closer in defense perceptions. Nobody can expect that India and America will see eye to eye on all issues, but the growth of their cooperation in trade as well as in defense seems quite bright. On the trade front, because of India's adopting to the new trade requirements and doing away of controls as a part of changes in India's economic and trade policies, the chances of American investment in India have brightened.

In the field of defense, India had relationship at the levels of training, exchange of expertise and weapons acquisition with various countries in the backdrop of the nonaligned policy. The disintegration of the Soviet Union has induced the United States to shed many of its inhibitions in developing ties in the defense field with countries like India which had fruitful relationship in the field with the Soviets. The new treaty to be signed with Russia vis-a-vis the earlier 20-year treaty of friendship and cooperation shows that India also does not expect much from Russia or other republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union. The United States and Britain would like to step in to fill the gap for mutual benefit. Economic compulsions also make them alive to the export opportunities for the defense products which can be sold outside without the fear off defense secrets getting into the hands of potential enemies. For instance, the British foreign secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, during his recent visit to Delhi reportedly offered to provide India with arms to make up for the loss of military hardware imports from the Soviet Union. He said that if India so desired, India-British cooperation in the military field could be restored to its past scale. The visit of Chief of the Army Staff General S.S. Roderiguez to the United States last year, and the reciprocal visits of the defense chiefs of the two countries are helping in the improvement of the India-U.S. and India-British relations.

The United States and Britain have taken a very positive stand on the issue of Pakistan's abetment to terrorism and secessionist activities in Punjab and Kashmir. A Pentagon delegation headed by the chief of naval operations, Admiral Frank Kelso, is to visit India in a few days. Defense ties at the working level between the two countries are not something new. In the past, while U.S. personnel have benefited from training in India's mountain warfare techniques, Indian personnel have been trained by the U.S. in rapid deployment of forces. A joint naval exercise by India and the United States is also expected soon.

The prospects for closer collaboration between the defense industries of India and the United States should receive a boost, especially in context of a gradual convergence of India-American security perceptions for the South and Central Asian regions and in the light of French government offering to sell Pakistan 40 Mirage-2000 fighter aircraft as well as an unspecified number of submarines, mine sweepers, mine detectors and other military equipment. The Pakistan Air Force will in effect have a formidable force of 88 such jets. In addition to this, Pakistan has access to 36 Mirage-2000 fighters with Abu Dhabi Air Force which had been flown and maintained by Pakistan Air Force for the last two year. Under a defense agreement with Abu Dhabi, these aircraft would be available to Pakistan Air Force in an emergency. Meanwhile, the Pentagon has offered to sell India high performance F-16 C and D aircraft. Additionally, Washington has reiterated an offer to start assembly line production of the TF-5 advance jet trainer in India. Both offers are highly significant as political consent by the Pentagon confirms a major shift in the U.S. strategic perception of India.

India seems to have been docktailed into the U.S. cooperative vigilance framework which implies collective political and military support by a regional partner to preserve commercial and political interests in the region. American strategic thinkers especially view the Asia-Pacific as being prone to political turbulence following the end of the Soviet presence.

Iran

UN Envoy Denies State Financed Hostage Releases

LD2001184792 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 20, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy here today denied a WASHINGTON POST report that Tehran had financed the confinement and upkeep of the American hostages held in Lebanon. "These fabricated reports are made and spread by Israeli sources in the U.S.," Dr. Kamal Kharrazi told the NBC in an interview. The POST reported on Sunday that Iran had paid the captors of the American hostages between one and two million dollars for each hostage release.

"Iran maintains special influence on the Shi'ite community but this is never meant to bribe the Lebanese groups. The release of the hostages was made possible after going through a very complicated process supervised by the (former) U.N. secretary general," he said.

On the claim that regular money payments to the groups holding the American and other Western hostages were traced by the U.S. intelligence to official Iranian sources, Kharrazi said, "this should be proved. Principally, underground groups are unable to open bank accounts. No one would believe these claims."

He expressed confidence that Israel was behind the POST report because he said the Israelis even refused to cooperate with the secretary general during the negotiations in Lebanon for the release of the hostages. "The Israelis were angry at the release of the Western hostages. Because they wanted their problem in Lebanon be solved first, that is the problem of their missing servicemen."

On normalization of relations between Iran and the United States, Kharrazi said the matter was up to the U.S. Government. "If they want to have normal relations with Iran, they should change their policy (towards Tehran) and release Iran's frozen assets."

Habibi Denies Iran Aided 'Some Groups' in Algeria

LD2001120692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] The spokesman of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran today once again emphasized our country's policy of noninterference in other countries' affairs and dismissed the recent claims of Algerian officials that the Islamic Republic of Iran has helped some groups in that country as sensationalism and lies. He said: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is reviewing current bilateral relations with a benevolent attitude and will respond at the appropriate time.

Mr. Habibi, the government spokesman, who was taking part in a news conference, said in response to a question about measures taken by Turkish media and the Turkish Government to combat the growth of Islamic tendencies in the Muslim-populated independent republics north of Iran: The former Soviet Government was not able to prevent, in the course of 70 years, the growth of Islamic tendencies and the devotion to pure Islam of the Muslims of the former Soviet Union. Combating such feelings which have their roots in people's hearts and minds is a useless activity based on a mistaken idea. If it were possible to tear people away from their Islamic devotion, the past rulers of the former Soviet Union would have been able to accomplish it much more effectively and with much greater strength.

He added: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is in the process of establishing political, economic, and cultural ties with its northern neighbors, and in addition to forming brotherly and friendly links with the people, it will conduct relations with the governments of those countries on the basis of international regulations.

In connection with the latest results of the discussions between Iran and the United States about financial disputes raised in the Hague tribunal, Mr. Habibi called once again for the release of Iran's deposits which remain with the U.S. Government from payments formerly made [by the shah's regime] for the purchase of arms. He said: The U.S. Government must act as soon as possible to release Iran's deposits, which amount to over $10 billion.

Yazdi on 'Sensitive Situation' for Algerian Muslims

LD2001201792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Referring to the sensitive situation facing Muslims in Algeria, Yazdi, chief of the judiciary, asked at a meeting of judicial officials today: How can those who proclaim democracy and human rights and who consider the rule of the people over the people to be the best form of government justify their political actions and interference aimed at obstructing the victories of the Muslims gained through popular elections?

Addressing the defenders of human rights, he said: Now that the Muslim people of Algeria, through their reliance on religion and on the basis of internationally recognized principles and freedoms, have chosen a path desired by Islam to govern their country, what has happened that you have canceled the vote of the people and are disregarding principles that you ostensibly claim to be preserving and safeguarding? [passage omitted]

Velayati Departs for Ukraine on Official Visit

NC2101070992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati left Tehran for Kiev this morning on an official visit to Ukraine. He is to deliver a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Ukrainian President Kravchuk. He will also meet the

Ukrainian foreign minister and speaker of parliament and will discuss bilateral cooperation and establishing diplomatic relations.

The Foreign Ministry reported that following preliminary consultations and the expression of interest by the Ukrainian Government in opening diplomatic representation offices and exchanging ambassadors, Iran and the Ukraine will establish embassies in each other's capitals.

Because of its economic, industrial, and agricultural potential, Ukraine is considered an extremely important country among the Commonwealth of Independent States and has noteworthy potential for bilateral cooperation. While being a good market for some Iranian export items, Ukraine can—with its strong industrial backbone—play an effective role in joint industrial-commercial projects, particularly in energy, steel production, foundries, and manufacturing spare parts.

Syria's Khaddam Arrives for Talks

LD2001151192 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam heading a high ranking delegation arrived in Tehran Monday afternoon on a three day visit. Upon arrival, Khaddam told reporters that he was here to exchange views with Iranian officials on matters of mutual interests and to review the agenda of the forthcoming session of Tehran-Damascus joint economic commission.

First Vice President Hasan Habibi, who greeted his Syrian counterpart at the airport, said that talks with Khaddam would cover regional and international issues as well as bilateral relations. Important developments taking place after the latest round of talks between the two countries in Damascus such as the independence of former Soviet republics would be discussed by Khaddam and Iranian officials, he said. Habibi also termed Tehran-Damascus ties as being in their "best possible form." [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' is accompanying Khaddam. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was also at the airport to greet the Syrian delegation.

Meets With Vice President Habibi

JN2001213292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Tehran—The higher Syrian-Iranian joint committee held an official round of talks in Tehran today. The Syrian Arab side was headed by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and the Iranian side was headed by Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi. The talks were also attended on the Syrian side by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan, and the directors of the Asia and Information Departments at the Syrian Foreign Ministry. On the Iranian side, the talks were attended by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the assistant foreign minister, and a number of directors at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations, ways of bolstering them, and developments in the regional and international situation. They also assessed the peace process and the stalemate it has reached as a result of Israel's intransigent positions that are hostile to peace. The talks also touched on the multilateral talks scheduled to be held in Moscow later this month, as well as their negative impact on the causes and interests of the Arabs and Muslims.

The two sides had identical views on the issues they discussed. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif Reviews Results of Visit to France

Views India, Afghanistan

BK1901100392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said his visit to France has been extremely successful because its main objectives have been achieved. The prime minister is to return to Islamabad from Paris this morning. In an interview in Paris, he said he held talks with the French president on the problems facing South Asia, besides discussing the defense needs of Pakistan. He said the situation in occupied Kashmir is very bad and that the Indian forces continue to carry out atrocities and violate human rights to an alarming degree. Referring to differences with India on the Kashmir problem, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said he told President Mitterrand to exercise his influence on India to resolve this issue.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister said he feels the situation there is moving towards a political settlement.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said Pakistan is concentrating on development through socioeconomic reforms and that comprehensive development programs are being implemented.

Answering yet another question, he again clarified that Pakistan's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. He said they had to meet the needs of more than 115 million people and therefore they are giving priority to socioeconomic development.

The prime minister said during his talks with President Mitterrand, an agreement in principle has been reached on the French sale of 7 billion francs worth of weapons to Pakistan. It involves the purchase of up to 40 Mirage aircraft. Its technical and financial details have to be sorted out. The (?comprehensive) agreement also involves the purchase of three non-nuclear submarines and Mirage radars. The agreement signed with the French Government involves the purchase of three naval minesweepers out of which one will be supplied from the

existing fleet, the second will be manufactured in France, while the third is to be built in Pakistan.

Welcomes Concern Over Kashmir

BK1901115692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said that the decision of France to sell sophisticated air and naval defense equipment to Pakistan and its candid support for early resolution of the Kashmir issue in terms of the UN resolution are some of the achievements of his just-concluded visit to Paris. He was summing up major gains of his visit while talking to newsmen accompanying him on his flight back home from Paris early this morning.

The prime minister, highlighting the principal achievements of his first contact with a major Western power, also said that President Mitterrand of France appreciated Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. He said leading French industrial groups have expressed their interest to set up manufacturing facilities in Pakistan.

The prime minister expressed complete satisfaction over the outcome of his visit to France and asked newsmen to analyze his visit not in specific material terms, but in the light of the political advantages arising for Pakistan from such high-level contacts with a country as important as France.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said it was extremely encouraging and reassuring for us to listen to President Mitterrand's concern over the situation in occupied Kashmir and to hear him reiterate the French call for a resolution of the issue in accordance with UN resolutions. Pakistan, he said, was vigorously trying to achieve an early resolution of this problem to bring an end to the miseries and the brutalities being inflicted on the innocent Kashmiris.

On Nuclear Issue, Ties, Arms

BK1901165192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the French decision to sell Pakistan sophisticated air and naval defense equipment and its candid support for an early resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolution are some of the major achievements of his just-concluded official visit to Paris. He was summing up the major gains of his visit while talking to newsmen accompanying him on his flight home from Paris early this morning. [passage omitted]

Giving details of his talks with President Mitterrand on nuclear nonproliferation, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said he has requested the French president to play a role in convening a five-nation conference on the issue. He said Pakistan is making every possible effort to find a regional solution to this. He adds that Pakistan expects countries such as France to impress upon India the need to arrive at an understanding on the matter in the larger interest of the people of the region. Pakistan appreciates the French (word indistinct) and tolerance and it is willing to wait until the nuclear nonproliferation issue is resolved before receiving its nuclear plant. He said Pakistan is even ready for complete safeguards, only if India also agrees to do so.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said President Mitterrand emphasized that French relations with Pakistan are based purely on the norms of interstate ties. Mitterrand clarified that no other consideration is involved in this regard. The French president referred to the development of democratic institutions in Pakistan and reaffirmed his full support to the present government's measures to strengthen these institutions.

Answering a question on the agreement with France for the purchase of sophisticated defense equipment, the prime minister described it as timely and in the national interest. He said Pakistan will be very happy at the resumption of military purchases from its traditional sources, as the country cannot wait indefinitely to equip its armed forces with much-needed arms and equipment. The prime minister said it is necessary for Pakistan to keep its armed forces reasonably equipped with arms and equipment always. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said prudence and judgment dictate that they do not depend on only one source for the procurement of arms and equipment.

When asked whether he felt there has been any pressure on the French Government to sell weapons to Pakistan, the prime minister gave a negative reply. He said France is a sovereign country and it has its individual perception on international and regional issues.

On the total value of the defense deal, the prime minister said details of the financial agreement will now be worked out and the need for loans in this regard will also be considered. He said the Pakistani Air Force will also need some time to create its new fleet.

The prime minister said he is particularly happy at the purchase of three minesweepers for the Pakistani Navy, the third of which will be built in Pakistan with French collaboration, thereby improving the Pakistani Navy's shipbuilding capability and facilitating the transfer of much-needed technology. Pakistani personnel will be included in building the second minesweeper in France for training purposes.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo has said that a complete identity of views was noted during the prime minister's talks with French leaders on all major international and bilateral matters. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad after returning from Paris this morning. He said France also supported the Pakistani stand on Kashmir and Afghanistan. Kanjoo said that the prime minister's talks with French leaders have been very positive and encouraging.